

SCAN

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# WHAT SCOTLAND CAN LEARN FROM THEIR WORLD CUP FAILURE

# SHOOT!

15p

8th JULY, 1978



Left . . . Biosca of Spain sprints for goal chased by Brazil's Reinaldo in their 0-0 World Cup game.  
Below . . . Ipswich's Brian Talbot heads a tremendous goal against West Bromwich Albion in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final at Highbury.

*Several  
stars  
select their*

## 'BEST GOALS OF LAST SEASON'



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ANY team that cannot beat mediocre opposition such as Iran certainly do not deserve to win such a glittering prize as the World Cup. Any team that can decisively conquer first-rate rivals such as Holland, even without the marvellous Johan Cruyff, surely deserve a medal of some sort.

It is in between these two extremes Scotland fall after yet another weird and wonderful attempt on the World Cup in Argentina.

Scotland went out there leaving behind countless

promises to their fans. But the pledges were blasted to smithereens after only one game and Ally's Army became the angry brigade.

What went so drastically wrong? Who is to blame? Will Scotland learn their lesson this time? And what does the future hold in store for the one time tartan terrors who were toothless tigers in their matches against Peru and Iran?

# SHOCKLAND!

**T**HESE are the questions everyone is asking. Scotland's failure to qualify from their group startled the world. Shrewd judges dotted around the globe thought the Scots would do well. A lot stuck their necks out and said Scotland would actually win the trophy.

Hennes Weisweiler, the manager of new West German Champions Cologne, is a respected man in soccer and even his prediction that Scotland would be a "revelation" has rebounded on him. Others were left wondering why Scotland had been so abysmal in their attempts to beat Peru and Iran.

The honeymoon for Ally MacLeod is well and truly over. His World Cup adventure to Argentina ended under an absolute avalanche of abuse. The famous smile disappeared. There were no more machine-gun comments from the man with the fastest gums in the West.

He had learned success at the very highest level does not come easily. He said Peru were old and slow. They may not be the

youngest side on earth, but there is no way anyone can accuse players such as Munante and Oblitas of being slouches.

MacLeod made bad mistakes. Of that there can be no doubt. Right at the very start when he named his squad of 22 to travel to South America the fans were wondering why players such as Andy Gray, Ian Wallace, Arthur Graham and Frankie Gray were left out.

He took three goalkeepers — Alan Rough, Jim Blyth and Bobby Clark — when a lot of people thought two would have been sufficient. He didn't take a replacement left-back although he knew Willie Donachie was suspended and would miss the opening match against Peru.

If MacLeod had seized the opportunity to watch the Peruvians before setting off to Argentina he would surely have taken Frankie Gray along. As it was, he played central-defender Martin Buchan in the left-back shirt and the Manchester United man, although sticking with his enormous task throughout, didn't have one of his better games against the speedy and tricky Munante.

MacLeod also took along Aberdeen's Joe Harper and critics

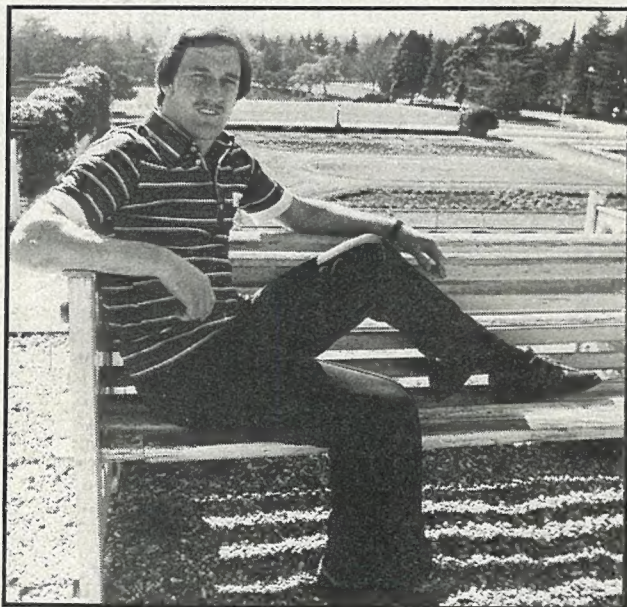
immediately pointed out Andy Gray should have gone in his place. Harper's adventures in the World Cup were restricted to several second-half minutes in the bungling, inept performance against Iran.

The nippy, alert Ian Wallace might have upset the Peruvians

and the Iranians. Whose place would he have taken? Sadly, it looked as though Gordon McQueen had no chance of playing in Argentina after injuring his leg in a collision with a Hampden goal post against Wales.

The Scottish team boss was loyal to his players, but, really, the World Cup is no place for the sentimental. McQueen took a valuable

*Ally MacLeod made bad mistakes . . . even before a ball was kicked*



**Jim Blyth — one of THREE 'keepers**







**Willie Johnston, not the only player who will never again play for Scotland**

place when he should have been left at home. It's as brutal and simple as that.

Why, though, did MacLeod pass up several opportunities to go and watch his World Cup opponents? One SFA official says: "We asked the manager to go and look at the other teams, but he ignored us. We practically begged him."

MacLeod had gone on record as saying: "If you say 'We will win the World Cup' long enough the players start to get convinced. They start to believe it can happen..."

Someone obviously forgot to tell Peru and Iran!

So, even before a ball had been kicked in Argentina, mistakes had been made that were to prove so costly. MacLeod must take the share of the blame. But what about the stories and rumours of drinking in the Scottish camp?

Furious denials have been made by MacLeod, the players and the officials. The hotel at Alta Gracia had to send out for emergency supplies of beer when their own stock had been exhausted. This proves someone, somewhere, was doing an awful lot of drinking!

Tunisia, with no axe to grind, agreed with the Mexicans' report the Scottish players were indulging in perhaps more alcohol than was good for them.

Reports filtered through about Lou Macari being drunk at a casino, but it is a fact the Manchester United player is TEETOTAL! Kenny Dalglish is another who doesn't care much for his country's national drink.

But there can be no smoke without fire. Obviously some players didn't apply themselves to the task properly. And, equally obvious, is the fact some players who made that trip will never play again for Scotland — and we are not just talking about Willie Johnston!

The Johnston drugs drama left Scotland with red faces and gave the rest of the world a belly laugh. It made MacLeod's team a laughing stock. Johnston has said: "I was silly..." Possibly, he doesn't understand just how much of an understatement that was.

The SFA had to act swiftly when the dope test of the West Brom winger proved positive. Their own action was equally positive. They sent Johnston packing and immediately banned him for life.

The Scottish officials have proved in the past this does not naturally mean a life ban, but it will in Johnston's case. That is absolutely certain. Joe Harper, Arthur Graham, Billy Bremner, Willie Young and Pat McCluskey were all banned for "life" three years ago after the infamous Copenhagen Nightclub incident, but there was a lot of pressure on the SFA to lift a suspension many thought was harsh.

So far no one in Scotland has stepped forward to support Johnston...

But let's look at the mistakes that were made in the actual games. On reflection it would probably have been better for Scotland if they had had to work a bit harder for their opening goal in the 15th minute against Peru.

son, Bruce Rioch and Asa Hartford looked as though they had just been introduced to each other, and Peru kept up the pressure. The Scots cannot say they were unfortunate.

They had the opportunity to knock the stuffing out of Peru when they were awarded a penalty, but Masson, having a nightmare game, made it even worse with a feeble penalty that was pushed away by the 'keeper. Masson hit the kick in the exact same manner as the one against Wales at Anfield and the Peruvian manager, Marcos Calderon, had obviously told his 'keeper which way to go. To miss a penalty in the World Cup Finals is gross incompetence.

Peru realised this was going to be their night and the Scottish defence laid off "Old Man" Cubillas

**Two SMALL players on the end of the "wall"**



They had been playing well, even if some players, notably Don Masson, seemed to forget the roles they had to play within the team structure. Joe Jordan rolled the ball into the net after the 'keeper had pushed out a shot from Bruce Rioch and Scotland's

as he made a run through from the middle of the park. No one was picking him up, he couldn't believe his luck and he sent a 25-yard drive swirling past the badly-positioned Alan Rough into the roof of the net.

The third goal was the sickest

**Souness must become a regular**

bid for World Cup glory ended just about there and then!

The players became swaggering fools, believing the publicity that had said they would walk away with the trophy. They became arrogant, an apparent and appalling flaw in most Scots.

Peru sensed what was happening. They fed balls through to their wingers, Scotland's back-four was stretched to breaking point, the defence was getting little support from the midfield and Dalglish and Jordan were getting no service up-front. It was the beginning of the end...

The South Americans deservedly equalised just before the interval. We dearly hoped Scotland would do something to change the pattern of the game in the second-half. Apparently the only change in tactics was for Alan Rough to kick the ball downfield instead of throwing it out! How naive can you get?

Scotland stuttered on. Don Mas-

joke of all. Again Scotland had neglected their homework as the Peruvians prepared to take a free-kick from 20 yards. Rough erected a defensive wall... and put two small players, Lou Macari and Stuart Kennedy, on the end of it. Incredible!

Cubillas again gave a knowing smile, pulled back his lethal right-foot and hit a cheeky shot high into the net with Rough again fumbling across his line.

And that was that! A disjointed, pathetic performance from the Scots. Their bravado had exploded in their own faces. No longer were they heroes. They had to prove themselves and when the chips were down they couldn't do it.

The fans gasped when MacLeod announced his line-up to face Iran. He didn't have a playmaker in the side with a midfield that consisted of Macari, Gemmill and Hartford. It was a bad team selection and a visibly-shaken MacLeod said after the disgraceful 1-1 draw: "I made a terrible mistake in not playing Graeme Souness. I thought we would set up camp in their half, but it didn't work out like that."

Why then, didn't MacLeod change his tactics at the interval? It was obvious to everyone the Scots were struggling. He could have taken off almost anyone to make way for Souness. He had a wide variety of choice.

Souness, however, stayed on the bench, Scotland stayed on the ropes... and Iran got the goal they so richly deserved to gain a point. It was one of the worst displays by an international side in Scotland's history.

## Stoned

The players just did not fight for each other. They were a shambles. The tartan clad fans couldn't contain their anger or disgust. The team bus was stoned as it left the stadium and there were cries of "MacLeod must go... Scotland are rubbish."

Scotland needed a clear three-goal victory over Holland to extend their stay in Argentina, but it looked an impossible task. The fans, who had paid so much for so little, started to drift home, their dreams and fantasies well and truly buried under the garbage that had been served up by their "heroes".

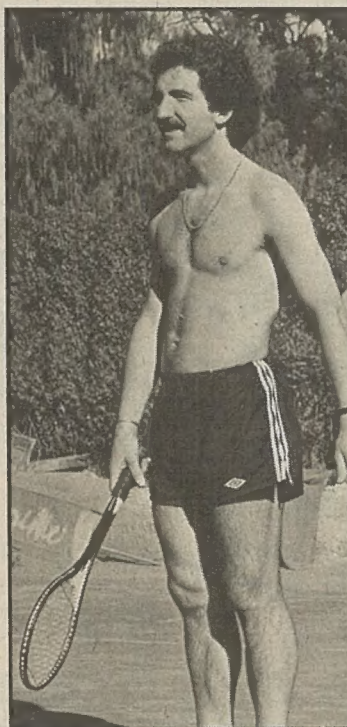
Amazingly, Scotland managed to raise their game against the Dutch and, of course, scored three goals in a superb victory. But there were no celebrations. Holland got two goals themselves and that gave them the edge on goal-difference.

So, yet again the Scots tumbled out of the World Cup for the second successive occasion on goal-difference. In West Germany in 1974 they had paid heavily for only beating Zaire 2-0. They said they would not make the same mistake twice. They did. And paid for it.

The performance against Holland was a startling one. Archie Gemmill, who had struggled against Iran, suddenly looked world-class. That superlative is often over-used, but Gemmill's display in Mendoza was absolutely brilliant.

He was everywhere and, of course, he scored one of the best

*Continued on page 4*







**For the second time — out on goal-difference**

*Continued from page 3*

goals of the tournament when he jinked past three Dutch defenders to loft the ball over Jan Jongbloed for the third goal. That made the score 3-1 and Scotland realised they could achieve their miracle with a clear three-goal win.

Three minutes later the dream ended yet again when the defence allowed Johnny Rep the same amount of time and space as they presented Cubillas when he came through from midfield and hammered a shot of awesome power beyond the desperately-diving Rough.

In keeping with Scotland's erratic ways in Argentina they won the game in which the opposition scored the first goal ... and couldn't win the ones in which they were leading!

So, Scotland came home. They gathered some pride in that last match. They had lost their credibility in the games against Peru and Iran, but against Holland they showed the world some of the form that is more readily associated with the team.

Where do they go from here? The European Championship is just around the corner with the opening game against Austria in Vienna later this year. That will be

a tough one, but there can be no doubt Scotland have the players to do well. With better direction off the field and more dedication on it, the Scots could be a very good side.

But let's not go overboard again. This is the time for a player such as Graeme Souness to become a regular for his country. He has the talent and the ability to be a huge success and the position is up for grabs. Poor Don Masson has dropped out of things at both club and country level. There has got to be a good reason for that ...

There are other good young

players who could be welcomed into the pool. Jim Stewart, Middlesbrough's recent £110,000 signing from Kilmarnock, will obviously benefit from a season in the English First Division and he could stake his claim to become the first choice goalkeeper.

George Burley and John Wark, of Ipswich, must come into the reckoning. Rangers' Bobby Russell, too, is worth a chance. St. Mirren's Bobby Reid, Tony Fitzpatrick and Frank McGarvey are fine players while Celtic offer Alan Sneddon, Tommy Burns, Roddie MacDonald and Roy Aitken.

A new captain will have to be found for the team. Bruce Rioch had a disappointing World Cup and it could be Archie Gemmill will step in, although it may only be on a short term basis.

There are good players dearly wishing to represent Scotland, but there must be no more over-confidence and exaggerated summing-up of players' talents. There is a lot of hard work to be done. Argentina is now in the past. The nightmare must be forgotten.

The questions still go on, though. Why didn't Derek Johnstone kick a ball in the World Cup? Johnstone, after all, scored the goals against Northern Ireland and Wales in the British Championship yet he was ignored in Argentina.

He has a future with Scotland, there can be no doubt about that. Obviously, though, his style clashes with Joe Jordan, who wasn't Scotland's most disappointing performer in South America.

Anyway, the time is right for looking forward. There must be a fresh approach from the Scots. Let's wait until they have actually won something of note before the shout goes up: "Scotland are the greatest."

It was proved in Argentina that Scotland are far from it.



**Gemmill's display was absolutely brilliant**



**Rangers' Bobby Russell worth a chance**



*Goalscorer Derek Johnstone has an international future*



*Newcomer and 'Veteran' steal the big show!*

# ITALY'S PAOLO ROSSI



Italy's young star Rossi (left) beats Jean Marc Guillou of France during their First Round game.

## BIG in Courage and Skill

**P**AOLO even walks with style. The 21-year-old sensation of Italy, a superbly talented striker in a country noted for its defensive play, is every inch a footballer. He may be comparatively small, but he's big in courage and skill.

He's 21, and before he played in the World Cup was relatively unknown. We'd seen him briefly for Italy's Under-21's against England and that night at Maine Road he showed some marvellous touches.

Rossi scored 24 goals for Vicenza in the Italian League last season — a fine achievement, especially for a 21-year-old.

Now, a few weeks later, the name of Paolo Rossi is known throughout the soccer world. Yet despite this sudden fame, the likeable Rossi remains the same modest lad who grew up in Pratto.

He says: "I've always loved football and felt it would be my vocation."

"I used to play all sports as a youngster, but soccer was the one I loved most of all."

"Now I'm more famous, I like to think I won't change. I'm not married so I feel I can do what I like with my spare time."

"I'm studying accountancy because it is better for everyone to have an alternative occupation. I enjoy going to the cinema — not for the sake of, but to watch meaningful films."

"Perhaps my greatest pleasure is simply listening to music. Again, not just ANY music, but that which I particularly favour."

"Football is my life, yet at the same time it is essential to relax

when you're at home."

Rossi may relax off the field, but his speed and awareness make it certain opponents can't leave him alone even for a second on the park.

"Being unknown has been an advantage in some ways."

"For example, before our first World Cup tie against France I'd played just a couple of internationals. My marker, Rio, didn't really know what to expect from me, yet I'd been able to study him fairly closely as he's been around a while."

"I was told just a few hours before that match I'd be in the team. It all happened so fast... incredible."

The recognised centre-forward was Graziani. Did the inclusion of the inexperienced Rossi cause any problems?

"No, none at all. Graziani is a close friend and, after all, we are all members of the Italy squad."

Rossi, who seems to prefer talking about others as much as himself went on: "My heroes in soccer are the Brazilians, not necessarily the way they played in Argentina, but in the past. Their football is beautiful. In Europe we could never play the same way."

In Italy they call Paolo Rossi "Bravo Ragazzo" — the brave young man. Roberto Bettega, their other superstar striker, explained: "Paolo is frightened of nothing. He is small, yet so strong. To play in Italy you must be strong and to score more than 20 goals you have to be the strongest."

Italy's "Bravo Ragazzo" is certainly here to stay...

# PERU'S TEOFILO CUBILLAS

## STILL FULL OF FIRE

**O**NE of the most exciting players in the 1978 World Cup Finals was Teofilo Cubillas of Peru. And, with apologies to Scotland fans, the 28-year-old midfielder showed he had lost none of the fire we saw for the first time in Mexico eight years ago.

Cubillas, we were led to believe, was "past it" and so were Peru, yet they proved to be very much "with it", matching the Scots in every department that sad afternoon in Cordoba.

Yet the star was not surprised at Peru's success. He says:

"We prepared with the same thought and intensity as we did under our manager in 1970, Didi."

"This side is, I feel, even better in many ways and certainly things were easier for us as we are all far more experienced these days."

"Where I believe we are particularly strong is in attack. Previously, our build-ups were slow. Now, we can reach our opponents' goal much more quickly, as we did against Scotland."

"I can't emphasise how much our extra experience meant to us in Argentina. I remember how easy it was in 1970 when Didi got that team together. I was one of the young players and had no responsibility. I used to look to someone like Chumpitaz for guidance."

"Now I'm something of a leader to our youngsters, although, as I said, many of us have been together since Mexico

and know each other's style so well."

"Of our new players I'd say midfielder Cueto has the best chance of making a really big name for himself. He's only 23, yet plays like a veteran. His power and zeal make him a very formidable opponent."

"From my own point of view; playing in Switzerland and Portugal was invaluable. Although I had my troubles, particularly in Switzerland, I can now look back and see what valuable experience it all was."

Perhaps in hindsight we should have realised Peru wouldn't be easy pickings. Yet their form before the World Cup gave no indication of what was to come in Argentina.

"We did not play as well as we can in Cali, Colombia, when we qualified. The team had not been together very long and our preparation was poor."

"Before the World Cup, we were together for three months and this was a major factor in our success. Physically, we had time to reach our peak at the right moment, which we did."

"When we left Lima, everyone was confident and optimistic. I don't know what was being said in Britain, but we knew our capabilities if no one else did."

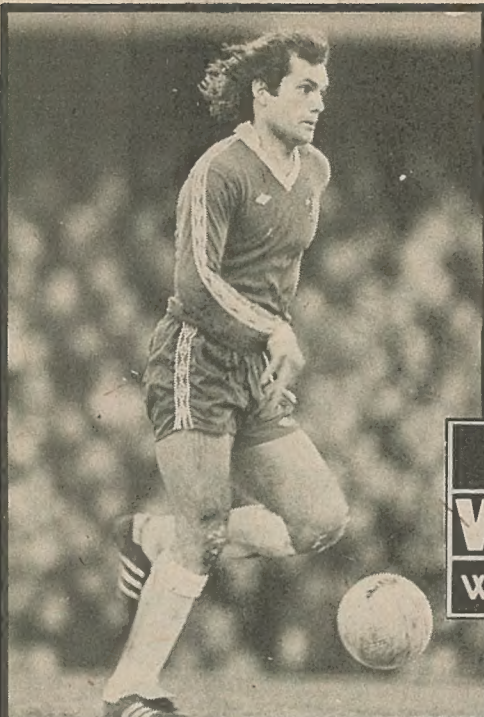
In 1970, Peru were new and refreshing. In 1978, they were more experienced yet just as exciting. What a pity it was Scotland who found this out to their expense.

Teofilo (centre) demonstrates his ball control to security guards outside Peru's hotel.





# 'CHELSEA WERE DISAPPOINTING'



**RAY  
WILKINS**  
writes for you

**O**VERALL, I was a little unhappy with Chelsea's first season back in Division One and my own form left much to be desired.

For a while, it looked as if we could establish ourselves in the top flight with a mid-table position, yet in the end we were struggling to avoid relegation.

It's hard to say why we fell away so dramatically. Perhaps it was a combination of injuries, the resulting team-changes and the inconsistency which came from having an unsettled side.

I was really worried for a while towards the end. We lost five games in succession, we were playing awfully and didn't look like scoring.

The other teams in relegation trouble seemed to be showing more promising form, even though they, too, were dropping points. The omens, for a short while, were not good at all.

A quick return to the Second Division was dangerously near. Relegation would have been suicidal for Chelsea, it doesn't even bear thinking about.

## Financial

All the players are aware of the extra responsibilities we have because of our well-publicised financial situation.

None of us wanted to take charge on the field and there was a lack of confidence right throughout the side. It was our poor form which prompted me to make a premature return from injury. I'd virtually written myself off for the season, but I decided to try out my troublesome groin and thankfully I was able to join in the fight against relegation.

Even though the Press and fans were kind to me, I wasn't very happy with my form during 1977/78. I'm hard pushed to single out a game where, in my opinion, I played very well.

My discipline must also improve next season. I accumulated around 18 points last term, one yellow card



*Chelsea's 'Player of the Year' Micky Droy (bearded) heads clear during an Ipswich raid last season.*

away from a suspension. Most of my bookings were for silly offences like arguing. When things were going against us, I became frustrated and answered the ref back. This, of course, achieves nothing, except to earn a booking. I'll be working hard on this side of my game next season.

Still, there were good things to emerge from 1977/78. Clive Walker came into the team, played a couple of blinders, had one or two disap-

pointing games, and then settled down to establish himself on the left-wing.

I'm pleased with Clive's contribution and happy to see he has his feet firmly on the floor despite his rise to fame.

Steve Wicks and Micky Droy established an effective partnership at the heart of our defence, which surprised a few people.

It was said they couldn't play together because (a) they are both

naturally left-sided players and (b) both centre-halves.

Well, I thought the pair did exceptionally well. Steve is in the England Under-21 reckoning while man-mountain Micky was rightly chosen as our Player of the Year. I wouldn't argue with that selection as he's had an outstanding season.

He has surprising skill for someone so big — and I don't think there's a bigger player around! — and I look forward to the pair going



from strength to strength in the future.

Of course, it was a handicap for manager Ken Shellito not to be able to compete in the transfer market.

To refresh your memory, Nottingham Forest were also promoted with us a year ago. Look what Brian Clough achieved with the help of a few shrewd signings...

I'm sure Ken would have liked to strengthen our squad, but at least youngsters such as Clive and

line. So I hesitated a second... and chipped the ball over him and just under the crossbar. Pity the goal didn't really matter!

I must also give a mention to the Chelsea fans, whose support didn't waver even when Division Two became something of a reality. The Shed were singing and chanting to the end and I hope next season we can reward them with something to really cheer about.

For some of us, 1977/78 was our



Ron Harris (left) of Chelsea and Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish in action in the F.A. Cup and The Blues' best game of the season.

Tommy Langley were given their chance when otherwise they might still be waiting.

I think we all thought we would do better than we actually did. One reason why we finished lower than we hoped was because we gave away five points by conceding vital goals in the dying minutes of matches. Those extra five points would have made 1977/78 much happier!

We must be more professional and not "go to sleep" towards the end of a match. In this respect Liverpool are a perfect example because they WIN so many points by keeping going right until the final whistle.

Ironically, our best performance came against Liverpool in the F.A. Cup when we won 4-2.

We were really buzzing that day with every player on the top of his form.

Our worst performance was, I believe, at Highfield Road when Coventry City pulverised us 5-1. We were playing quite well at the time — until then. I mustn't take anything away from The Sky Blues who were superb that afternoon, hitting us from every direction with a wonderful display of attacking soccer.

Perhaps strangely, I scored my best goal of the season during that game! Mind you, I think we were 0-4 down at the time!

We broke through the middle and Bill Garner played the ball to me on the edge of their penalty-area. I was about to shoot when I noticed their goalkeeper off his

first full season in Division One so that experience will help us when we start again in August.

Next season, we must look to show the sort of form we did in spells... only this time produce it week in, week out.

I'll be taking a rest from soccer during the summer — if that's possible with the World Cup Finals taking us almost into July!

After the tournament, I'll be off to Spain for a welcome holiday with my brother, Graham, and by the time we return pre-season training will be just around the corner. Oh, I'll also be getting married.

I don't aim to do a great deal in terms of exercise until a week or so before we report back. Some of the lads play tennis, or squash, but I'll just be keeping an eye on my weight and laying off the chips!

Of course, I'll be doing some swimming on holiday, but generally speaking I'll be taking it easy.

I've already had a short break in Nice with the rest of the Chelsea lads, even though I couldn't go on the tour of Norway due to international duty in the British Championship.

Join me again in a couple of weeks when I'll be looking back over the Home internationals.

Until then,

*Ray Jones*

# GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St. London, SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published.

When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Andrew Green of Norfolk, who wins our special prize of £3. He writes:

## ALLY'S AGONY

HOW CAN the Scottish F.A. consider sacking Ally MacLeod just because Scotland had an indifferent World Cup? When the qualifying groups were drawn, Scotland had a formidable task against Wales and European Champions Czechoslovakia. Ally had brought a settled and dedicated squad through this and also won a British Championship.

When Scotland were knocked out of the World Cup the sacking of Ally MacLeod was discussed by the S.F.A.

He named his squad of 22 which seemed to be generally approved by the media and out of those he picked a side of 11. They didn't settle down to play the type of football all the players are capable of. Doesn't the blame lie with the players?

It seems to me players get the credit for victories but managers the blame for the defeats.

● This is what makes a manager's job a precarious one. As many have found out, past glories count for nothing.

## So-called Fans

I AM DISGUSTED at the poor support the Scots had in the World Cup Finals. Whatever a team's performance, the so-called fans should always be behind them and the manager Ally MacLeod.

Before the Finals, Ally and his Army had done us proud in qualifying. And after their first two disappointing games, they beat Holland who did so well later on.

All true Scots fans should be proud of their team.

ANDREW TANNER, GLAMORGAN.

● I think a lot of the disenchantment stems from fans being let

Kevin Keegan confirmed yesterday that he is the man Barcelona want as a star international replacement for Johann Cruyff. A figure of £2. is mooted for any future deal. Keegan, former Liverpool star, is at present with Hamburg.

down after a tremendous, near hysterical, build-up which almost took it for granted Scotland would win the Cup.

Next time — and we all sincerely hope the Scots will be in Spain for the 1982 World Cup competition — a more restrained, low-key approach will perhaps be rewarded with success.

## Strong Criticism

I, LIKE millions of other people, enjoyed watching the World Cup. But I didn't like to see people such as Jimmy Hill, Lawrie McMenemy, Pat Crerand, John Bond, Brian Clough, Peter Taylor and Kevin Keegan sitting there pushing criticism down our throats about the players and referees.

Surely everyone has the right to have his or her own opinion of a match.

I thought the World Cup was about football, so please let's have less of the talking and more of the action in future.

After all, very few of the predictions the so-called "experts" made came true.

J. MAIN, WALSALL.

● I agree too much time was given over to panellists. They tended to repeat themselves and become boring.

## Pen-Pal

I AM A 12-year-old boy from New Zealand and I would like to have a pen-pal, anywhere in the world, who supports Manchester United.

CHARLES GIBSON, 82A GREAT SOUTH ROAD, MANUREWA AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

## Mis-Print

I THOUGHT you might be interested in this passage I noticed in my local newspaper.

It appears your former columnist Kevin Keegan has been slightly undervalued.

MR. A. L. HAYES, FARNHAM.

● At that bargain price, there will be no shortage of clubs coming in for the England international. Even the SHOOT Six-a-Side team can afford him.





## Milford Everton

**IRISH "B" Division outfit Milford Everton, left homeless and faced with near-extinction after having to vacate their privately-owned Holm Park pitch, at the end of 1977-78, have secured a new ground in Armagh City, two miles distant from their former base.**

**PERRY DIGWEED**, the 18-year-old Fulham goalkeeper, knows plenty about the fruits of the job.

Before signing as an apprentice nearly two years ago he worked in the Covent Garden fruit and vegetable market.

The London-born 'keeper signed professional in July last year — six months after making his League debut.

● Southampton are interested in teenage Glenavon starlet Alan Wilson, a promising midfielder, who is a product of Armagh Boys' Club F.C.

**DEREK HOOD**, the 19-year-old Hull utility player, has already packed a lot of experience into his young life.

Before signing professional at Boothferry Park last October, he had already been on the books of West Bromwich and had trials with Shrewsbury.

The Hawthorns side signed him after he had starred in a Gateshead and District Under-18 side when he was only 16!

He also won an F.A. Youth Cup winners' medal with West Brom in season 1975-76.

## 'HODDLE A MUST FOR ENGLAND'

*Martin  
Chivers*

GLENN HODDLE (left) is a certainty to play for England. That's the opinion of former Tottenham and England striker Martin Chivers — the man who invited Hoddle to White Hart Lane after spotting him in a local match. Martin watched Hoddle last season while on a break from Swiss side Servette and was really impressed at the progress Glenn

had made.

Says Martin: "In one match I was clapping halfway through the moves he started because I was so excited by his style."

"I knew when I first saw him he had natural talent and it is fantastic the way he has come on by leaps and bounds since I left Spurs. He just has to play for England soon."

## NEWS DESK

COMPILED BY PETER STEWART

FORMER Manchester City, Derby and England striker Francis Lee is still playing in charity matches... and he keeps fit by playing RUGBY.



Eire youth international goalkeeper Pat Bonner (above) has signed for Celtic. Pat played for Donegal junior club, Kerdue Rovers.



## 'Ball Still Best'

**says Joe Royle**

"If I was building an England team on last season's form I'd start with Alan Ball (right). For my money it's better having a 34-year-old who can play than a 24-year-old who can't."

Those words were spoken by Bristol City striker Joe Royle when asked for his views on the present England side.

"I believe England's main weakness lies in midfield," says the Liverpool born Royle, who played with Ball in Everton's 1969-70 League Championship winning side.

"Alan Ball and Bobby Charlton for that matter have never been replaced and I'm confident Ball is still the best English midfielder player. It's a crying shame there has been no place for him in recent international sides."

"We're lucky in having a fantastic young player in Ray Wilkins but he's short of experience. He is going to be a great player and if he had Ball alongside him and possibly Trevor Brooking he would benefit immensely."

"In world class competition experience is a quality you cannot buy with gold."

## THE MEN WHO SHAPED 'WOODY'S' DESTINY

**TONY Woodcock**, the P.F.A.'s Young Player of the Year and new England cap from Nottingham Forest, is always full of praise for the men who have helped him make it big in soccer.

Of course, Brian Clough and Peter Taylor have played their part in shaping the Nottingham-born striker's destiny. But there are two other men whom "Woody" rates highly.

First of all there was Bert Johnson, who was Forest coach in Tony's earlier days at the City Ground.

And then there was Graham Taylor, now boss of Watford, but in charge at Lincoln when Woodcock went on loan there from Forest in 1976.

Woodcock had been having a lean time at Forest and says: "It was Graham Taylor who got me on the right road again."

He also got a lot of encouragement and advice from Dave Sexton, manager of the England Under 21 team.

"Tony was one of our big successes and deserves his move up into the senior squad," says Sexton.

Yet Tony failed to gain any schoolboy honours, but made the final selection list for the Youth squad.

His early League games didn't give him much joy, either. He scored in his first two games in the Second Division — but both efforts were ruled offside.

Tony relaxing at home with his wife Carol...



## ● WHY MILLS HATES STAMFORD BRIDGE



IN more than 500 games all over the world Ipswich skipper Mick Mills has grown to dislike one ground more than any other — Stamford Bridge!

He explains: "It's got to be our number one bogey ground. I can't recall ever going to play there and returning with the right sort of result."

"Some years back Chelsea were awarded a goal when an Alan Hudson shot hit the side-net. Television clearly showed it was no goal and the same happened last season when the cameras proved Steve Finnieston was at least ten yards offside when he scored."

"We lost both these games and we couldn't even win when David Webb played the whole 90 minutes in goal for Chelsea. Both their recognised keepers were injured and Webbie put up the shutters with a great display."

"And don't forget it was at Stamford Bridge that we lost in an F.A. Cup Semi-Final replay to West Ham three years ago. Even then we had two goals disallowed!"





## SHOOT On Target — Again!

IN a "News Desk" item in SHOOT, dated April 10, 1976, we referred to the then 15-year-old Portadown defender Steven McAdam as one of the most promising Irish youngsters — the same Steven McAdam, who, along with Ports' striker Jim Gardiner, recently signed for Second Division Burnley.

Incidentally, the last full-back Ulsterman to shine at Turf Moor was 40-times-capped Alex Elder, who won a League medal in his first full campaign with the Lancashire club, in 1959-60, when he was still only 18!

## GOOD NEWS FOR KEVIN KEEGAN FANS

WHILE visiting the SHOOT offices during a break from the ITV World Cup panel, Kevin Keegan happened to mention the re-launch of his fan club. It will be run by his brother, Michael, who will be only too pleased to pass on full details to interested readers who write to him at this address: P.O. Box 43, Doncaster, S. Yorks. Don't forget to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

MIKE JACKSON recently quit as manager of Queen of the South to become assistant-boss to Benny Rooney with First Division Champions Morton, who are already looking forward to the new season.

Jackson and Rooney were both Celtic players and this move bridges an 18-year gap. "It was a wrench leaving Palmerston," says Jackson, "but I couldn't pass up this opportunity of being involved in the Premier Division."

# SOCCER IN THE STATES

The new SSL — the Super Soccer League — will get under way in the States this month. League president, Jerry Saperstein, says: "We have unlimited sources of players available from professional teams throughout the world and American colleges and Universities. So it will be League policy not to approach or sign players currently with NASL clubs."

The League will kick-off with 12 clubs as far apart as San Francisco and New York.

## GOAL FOR CLYDE

EX-WEST HAM striker Clyde Best made one and scored one in the Timbers' success at Los Angeles. And the big Bermudan striker is well on course for his best ever season in the States.

Six goals and seven assists gives him a total of 19 points after 14 games — only six less than his best seasonal total. Best, who moved to Portland from Tampa Bay, enjoys the freer playing style of America.

He says: "In England you usually play with two strikers and a winger but here, you more or less do your own thing. There's not so much emphasis on the technical side — you just go out and play."

## MOM POWER

YOU'VE heard of player power. The latest thing in the States is mother power. A group of women on Long Island, New York, formed themselves into a team called the North Babylon Moms. Now other teams are

## NIGHTMARE FOR SMITH

TOMMY SMITH had a nightmare start for Los Angeles Aztecs. His team were thrashed 4-1 at home by Portland Timbers, their biggest defeat of the season.

The Aztecs have lost all six of their games at the Rose Bowl, their new home this season. And it looks as though Smith, who's joined them for the summer as player-assistant coach, has a lot of work on his hands.

Liverpool's iron man sat with an ice pack on his injured toe afterwards — the one that kept him out of the European Cup Final — and talked about the club's problems.

"Our home record is getting beyond a joke. We've just got to stop making mistakes, and start putting away some of the chances we're creating at the other end."

"It's a long time since I played in a team that let four go into the back of the net, and it's not a nice experience."

The Aztecs are bottom of the Western Division in the NASL's National Conference and will do well to make the playoffs even as one of the two "wild cards".

"I've still got a contract at Liverpool and I'll be going back there at the end of the summer. But that's a few weeks off. First I've got to get a few things sorted out here and

get the side winning again.

"I learned a long while ago to take things match by match and week by week. If you make plans, they have a habit of not working out. I'd planned to play in the European Cup Final and look what happened."

The only bright spot for Aztecs in the Timbers' game was a first goal of the season for George Best, albeit from the penalty-spot. So far this season, the ex-Northern Ireland star has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons.

After serving a one match suspension for being sent-off at Tulsa, Best returned for the game against the Caribou in Colorado — and got the red card again.

Best got his marching orders for laying out a defender who pulled his shirt. He was then voted offensive player of the night, which sounds a bit of a tongue-in-cheek award.

The match went into sudden death overtime — the Aztecs' fifth in succession — and the West Coast team won it with a goal in the first seven and a half minute half.

★★★★★

## F.I.F.A. THREAT

F.I.F.A. have repeated their threat to expel the NASL unless they conform to normal international rules. The main bones of contention are the 35-yard-line and the shoot-out system for deciding drawn games.

F.I.F.A. vice-president Harry Cavan said: "I am delighted to hear football is beginning to attract large crowds in America. It will be a tragedy if they are kicked out for refusing to follow the same rules as everyone else. I don't think it will be worth it."

★★★★★

## BUZZ OFF

CHICAGO still have the worst record in the NASL — and it seems that even their mascot can't do anything right.

The Sting's mascot is a black and gold bee, who tried to make friends with Minnesota Kicks goalkeeper Geoff Barnett before a recent game.

Barnett wasn't amused and told the creature to buzz off — or words to that effect.



springing up.

There's a team in the nearby community of Lindenhurst which boasts a 49-year-old grandmother. She's Terry Finn, who has nine children and five grandkids and says: "Age is not a factor as long as your legs are strong."

PETER FOX, the goalkeeper who joined Stoke in March for £15,000 from Sheffield Wednesday, has all the incentive in the world to do well at the Victoria Ground. The boy who did so well at the start with Sheffield Wednesday — he made his debut against Orient when he was only 15 — was listed at his own request at Hillsborough in October, 1976, after only 16 months as a professional.

Loan periods at West Ham and Barnsley followed without success. But his chance for a move came when Stoke manager Alan Durban, who was concerned about the lack of cover in this vital role, stepped in for him.

THE Republic of Ireland have arranged a friendly with West Germany in Dublin on 23rd May, next year. As a result Eire's away game with Bulgaria in the European Championship has been brought forward to Saturday, May 19th.

## EIRE CAP FOR WADE

ROGER WADE recently became the first player from the Isthmian League to be capped at professional level by the Republic of Ireland.

Wade, a former England schoolboy cap and regular with the Eire youth squad up to last year, was a surprise choice for the Under-21 side that contested the recent Toulon Tournament in France.

A talented full-back, Roger was released on a free transfer by Spurs at the end of the 1976-77 season. His name was linked with Crystal Palace, but the talk came to nothing.

He has a good job with an electronics firm, so the offer of a regular game with part-timers Ilford appealed to him.

Roger still has ambitions of playing in the Football League and hopes the Toulon Tournament will draw attention to him.



## PERSIL CLEAN TEAM CHAMPIONS

WOODBERRY Down Boys' Club, members of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs Under-14 League won last season's Persil Clean Team Trophy Award. The competition, which was sponsored for the seventh year by Lever Brothers Limited, was set up to instil and encourage clean play in football.

Participating teams were judged on punctuality, state of kit, approach to game and opponents, approach to officials and acceptance of final results.

At a reception held at Chelsea Football Club, Mr Geoffrey Batchelor representing Lever Brothers, presented the team with an engraved Cup and a football. Individual player awards to the 14 members of the team were presented by Garry Stanley of Chelsea. Each member of the team also received a complete football kit and holdall. A further part of the prize included tickets to a League match.



WOLVES pipped several clubs, including Manchester City, Newcastle and West Bromwich Albion, when they signed 22-year-old Peter Daniel from Hull City for £182,000.

Daniel has seven England Under-21 caps and he is now being freely tipped for full honours.

John Kaye, the man who took Daniel

to Hull, said: "He has already impressed Ron Greenwood and Dave Sexton and now he has the opportunity of playing in the First Division his chances of making the full international side must be very good."

Peter Daniel's assets, according to Kaye, who is now Scunthorpe United's coach, are his ability to read a game and his pace.



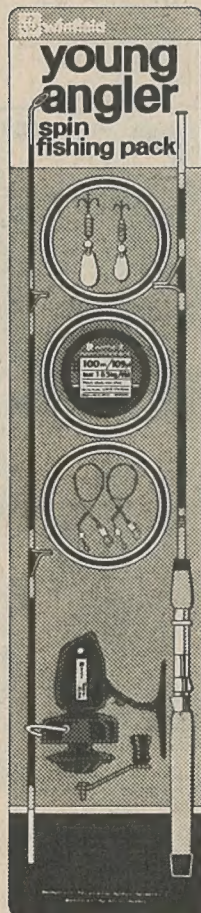
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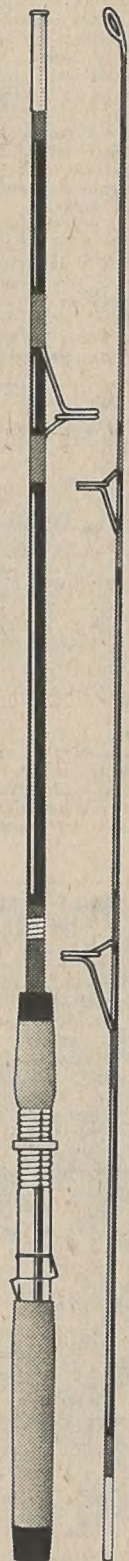
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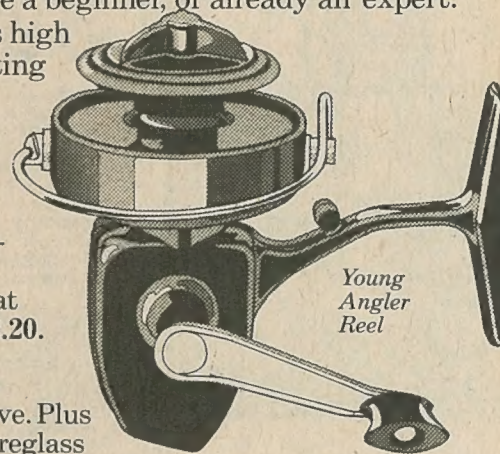
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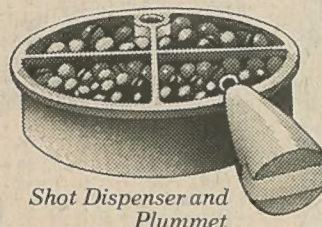


## Newcomer Float Fishing Pack

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## Newcomer Spinning Pack

This has got two Shanny spoons, two Perca spinners and 2 x 12" spinning traces. Price £1.05.



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**A**SK most soccer fans to name Tottenham Hotspur's mid-field trio and they'll immediately start off with Glenn Hoddle. Then they'll give you Neil McNab. But it's a fair bet the last name they'll come up with will be that of John Pratt.

Yet last season, Pratt played a vital role for Spurs in their triumphant push for promotion to Division One.

Nevertheless, John is resigned to the fact he's one of soccer's unsung heroes.

"It's just something I have to accept," he says. "With the kind of role I play, I'm far less likely to get the sort of headlines Glenn and Neil can command.

"Both of them have exciting, eye-catching styles that are bound to win matches, while my main task is to take a back seat, and keep things ticking over.

"I'm convinced Glenn and Neil, if they continue to develop as they should, will go on to become two of the biggest names in soccer. And I'm



## JOHN PRATT TOTTENHAM'S UNSUNG HERO

delighted to be playing my part in that development.

"Already they have tremendous ability on the ball. There's certainly nothing I can teach them in that direction. The opposite, in fact. They could teach me a thing or two.

"But I can help by allowing them to feed off my experience.

"Keeping them alert to what's going on around them. Not allowing them to disappear from the game for spells and stopping them from being tempted to stand around admiring the passes they make.

"It's certainly pleasing to know they acknowledge my help, by the way they call to me during games: 'Keep talking, John. Keep us going.'"

In the past, one way Pratt has been able to steal a sprinkling of glory has been with his goalscoring.

Not because of the number of times he's hit the back of the net. But because of the way he scores. More often than not with unstoppable piledrivers from way outside the penalty-area.

One particular effort against Wolves, up at Molineux, was used over and over again by Independent Television as the introduction to their mid-week soccer match.

"Yes, I remember that one well," recalled John. "Made me feel a proper star." Then he added, in his typical, chirpy manner: "I reckon it had a longer run than some television series.

"I did not score as often as I'd have liked last season though, mainly because I didn't get the kind of balls coming back from the front men that I like. And also

because of the quality of the goalkeepers we played against in the Second Division."

John has been a tireless servant for Tottenham since signing professional for the club in 1965.

Although during those 13 years, there have been occasions when it looked as if they would part company.

"It would be less than honest to suggest it's been plain sailing all the way between Spurs and myself," John admitted.

"There have been times when I thought I'd be better off with a move. That looked more than a distinct possibility when Terry Neill became manager.

"But I'm still here, aren't I.

"In fact, I pride myself that over the years various players have either been bought, or brought into the side to replace me, but I've always managed to come back and regain my place.

"I'm not on a contract now, as a matter of fact, because of a dispute over money. And as far as my future here is concerned, I'll just have to wait and see what happens when the next round of talks come along."

Nevertheless, John is hopeful he can settle his differences with the club, and enjoy next season's return to Division One.

"The directors, players and supporters have got together now as one.

"Everyone within the club, from the top to the bottom, is considered on an equal plane, which means people are far more approachable than ever before.

"It's developed an attitude which showed in our play last season, and is one we shall be taking with us next term."

## HOWARD KENDALL STOKE'S MIDFIELD MASTERMIND

**H**OWARD is convinced Stoke City will be making a strong promotion challenge next season — and anticipates they will improve on their seventh-from-top position of last April.

The reason for Kendall's optimism stems from Stoke's performances late last season, and after the appointment as manager of Alan Durban, the ex-Shrewsbury Town boss. Under him, Stoke moved away from the relegation zone.

"We showed improved form when the new manager came," says Howard. "And Stoke's confidence was at a very low ebb, following our F.A. Cup defeat by Blyth Spartans at home. Blyth played well, but at the same time the result was totally unexpected



and affected the morale of the players.

"If we had been able to enjoy a good Cup run at that stage of the season, it would have compensated for our League position. But losing to Spartans seemed to be the last straw. Then we rallied, started to pick up points, and at our last game of the season, the Stoke fans gave us a terrific ovation as we left the field.

"Whenever I've made a move in the past, such as from Everton,

then Birmingham, I've had regrets, but soon settled in with my new club — as I did here at Stoke. Everything here is geared to winning promotion, and I feel very much involved."

And following the arrival of Durban, who made him first team coach, the responsibility of passing on the benefit of his vast experience has made Kendall's involvement even more total.

Says Howard: "The players have been great, giving me full co-operation in every way during my coaching, and it has added extra enjoyment to the pleasure I've had from playing. On the field, I'm operating in the middle of the midfield which is my favourite position. At Birmingham, on some occasions, I was moved about more and asked to play wide — at other times I would appear in my usual midfield spot.

"Since coming to Stoke, I've never noticed any outstanding differences between First and Second Division football. Each has advantages and disadvantages compared to the other, and players who impressed me in the Second last term will probably do equally well in the First — I mean like Glenn Hoddle of Spurs and Peter Reid of Bolton."

### Relegated

About possible rivals to Stoke in their intended promotion push next season, Kendall thinks the three teams relegated from Division One could pose a threat.

"Leicester, Newcastle and West Ham could help to make the running — if they manage to get off to a good start in August. But if they slip up they will find it very hard going to get out of the Second."

One thing is certain — if Stoke do challenge for promotion in 1978-79 Howard Kendall is the man who can be expected to act as general to younger teammates. And if he seems to have been on the soccer scene for a long time, it should be remembered he played for Preston in an F.A. Cup Final at the tender age of 17 years 345 days — the youngest-ever.

From those early days, Kendall developed into a top class player when he moved to Everton and made his reputation with his intelligent and constructive play. Now that skill will be devoted to achieving the right results at the Victoria Ground.

And Howard sums up: "My ambition is to help Stoke set the pace next season."




**PETER WARD**  
*Brighton*



**SHOOT!**



A full-page photograph of a man with curly brown hair, wearing a bright red long-sleeved sweater and blue jeans, running across a green field. He is smiling and looking down at a large, fluffy white and black Old English Sheepdog running alongside him. The man is holding a silver leash in his left hand. The background is a soft-focus green field.

**A**NDY Gray, rated by many as the unluckiest player not to have made the Scotland World Cup squad for Argentina, likes to keep in trim during the summer break. Here, the talented Aston Villa striker and SHOOT columnist enjoys a training run with his lovely Old English Sheepdog, Ben, near his home in Birmingham.

**SHOOT!**

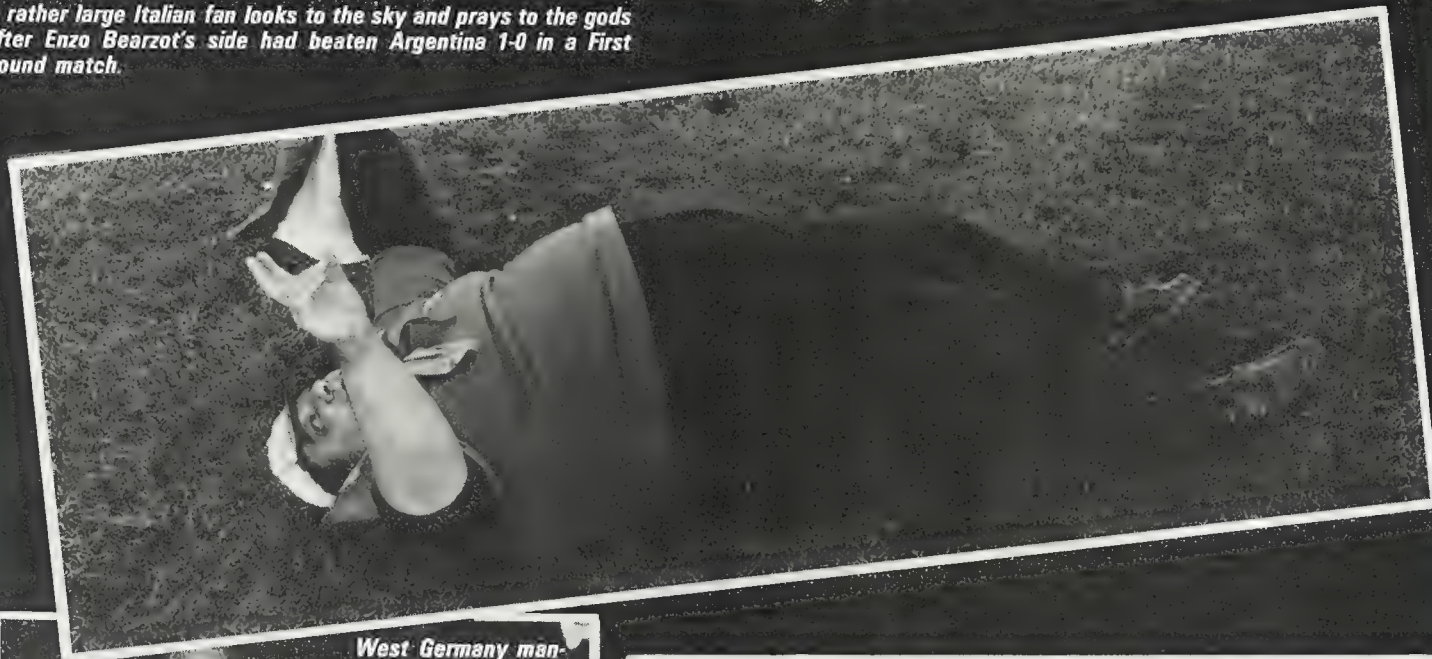


# It's a CRAZY WORLD — CUP, of course!

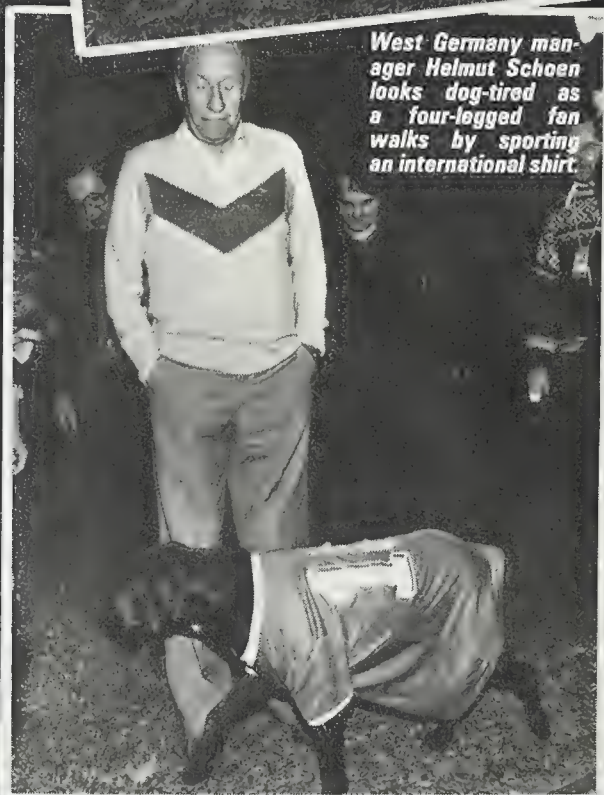
Photographers from all over the globe clamour to get a pre-World Cup shot of Italy before they played a friendly in Buenos Aires.



A rather large Italian fan looks to the sky and prays to the gods after Enzo Bearzot's side had beaten Argentina 1-0 in a First Round match.



West Germany manager Helmut Schoen looks dog-tired as a four-legged fan walks by sporting an international shirt.



A welcome feature of the Finals was the behaviour of the supporters. Here, we see some Argentinians celebrating in the street after a win by their favourites.





# THE RIVALS



Frank Carrodus

Alex Cropley

Dennis Mortimer

Tommy Craig

**Five players will compete for three midfield places at Aston Villa next season, including...**

**L**AST season saw Gordon Cowans, Aston Villa's 19-year-old midfield man, emerge from being a player of outstanding potential to one of real class.

Cowans, of the slightly-built frame with two feet packed with dynamite, puts this down to an extended first team run.

"It got better all the time," says the England Youth international. "I played more games than I expected because of injuries to other players and my game has come on in leaps and bounds. I must have played around 15 matches on the trot and that's quite a lot for me. I've only been in the side on other occasions when people have been sidelined, although I did have a run towards the end of the 1976-77 season."

Gordon came into the Villa team more or less on a permanent basis when he stood in for the injured Alex Cropley and few would disagree he's kept his place on merit.

"Naturally I've been disappointed when team boss Ron Saunders has left me out or when he wants to rest me. I've been playing, and as soon as whoever I've been standing in for has been fit again, then he's put them straight back in. But I can't complain, can I?"

## Two Gems

Gordon arrived at Villa Park direct from school. His full debut was at home to Norwich on September 21st, 1976, in the League Cup. "We won 2-1 and I was pleased with my performance," he says.

Gordon is a tiger in the tackle. He acts positively, thinks swiftly and scores stunning goals — like the two gems when Villa met Chelsea and Newcastle last April.

"The goal against the Stamford Bridge club was one of my better ones," he says, "and the one against The Magpies came when we were awarded a free-kick just inside the box. Dennis Mortimer touched it to me; the defence rushed out and in a flash I bent it into the top corner. But the best so far was when we played Queens Park Rangers the season before last and drew 1-1 at Villa Park."

"My strengths lie in my passing ability and my weakness is I'm too casual, but I'm working on this. It's lack of concentration.

# 'TIGER IN THE TACKLE' GORDON COWANS



"The boss does get on at me about this. He motivates us by coming round to everybody in the dressing-room before we go out and having an individual chat. He tells us what he wants and he gingers us up."

"The training we do at the club keeps me sharp. I think it is hard, yes. We do a lot of agilities and plenty of shooting practice. Sometimes Ron Saunders has us in on Sunday mornings. He did

this at the beginning of last season.

"The pressure of the First Division hasn't bothered me too much. I do get butterflies before a game and on a big match I get nervous the night before, but once I'm out on that pitch, then I'm okay."

"I have had plenty of experience for a teenager. I've played in Europe. It was tremendous to play Barcelona, especially over

there. I think they're much harder to play than the normal First Division teams. They take some getting used to. They're more professional; they go out to do a job."

"Whatever needs to be done, then they do it. At Villa Park Barcelona stopped us from playing altogether."

What was it like playing against Cruyff? "Once you're out there you don't really think about it. He stands out a mile, but you don't worry. It's marvellous to have played against him."

"I think my dad helped me along the way. He's kept up the encouragement; then when I came to Aston Villa it was Frank Upton."

"As a youngster I supported Mansfield Town. I always used to go and watch The Stags play. I was born in Durham, then I went to live at Mansfield."

"There are some great players at Aston Villa, but for me Andy Gray is the tops. It's teamwork really. It's a family atmosphere. All the players get on well together."

## The Best

"As far as supporters go, Villa's are among the best in the country."

"I learned my skills just by practising. There are brick walls at the training ground for shooting practice. We used to use them in the early part of last term, but not so much as the season went on."

"The most memorable match I've played in was the League Cup Final at Old Trafford when we clinched the trophy in 1977. It was the second replay and we won 3-2 against Everton. It was the biggest thrill as well."

"As far as disappointments go, then it must be losing to Barcelona in the U.E.F.A. Cup last term, also not having a regular first team place, but I'm fighting for this."

"There will be enormous competition for places next term when everyone's fit: Mortimer, Cropley, Craig, Carrodus and myself. That makes it five for three places. I'm going to be disappointed if I'm not in the team after playing so many matches in the last campaign, but I'm hoping to be there."

"My aim is to do well with Villa and to play for England. It's got to be that."



# 'TEN' MEMORABLE



## RAY CLEMENCE talking soccer

**B**EING a 'keeper, it's my business to study strikers, to learn about their particular methods: how they position themselves, which is their stronger foot, how they prefer to be fed the ball. In fact, their particular tricks of the trade.

And like everyone, I enjoy seeing a well-struck goal, although I naturally never resist a twinge of sympathy for the man who has the ball put past him.

Goals are getting harder to come by in today's football, mainly due to even-tighter defences, but although the quantity had fallen the quality is rising.

I had a difficult time selecting those for my ten best of 1977-78, every one of which was, in my view, absolutely unstoppable.

They're not in strict chronological order, but simply as I recall them.

I suppose it's natural I should start with a goal by Bob Latchford, with our traditional Merseyside "enemies" Everton, who goes into the record books as being the first man to win the £10,000 Daily Express/Adidas prize for scoring 30 League goals in the First or Second Division.

It was one of three to be scored in a match for Everton last season when The Blues showed they meant business by knocking Coventry City for six goals.

And it was set up for him by teammate Dave Thomas, who played a big part in helping him to reach his prize-winning target.

Dave collected the ball on the halfway line, beat two defenders on the run, turned on the by-line and crossed to the near post where Bob met it with a full-blooded volley into the bottom, left-hand corner.

Goalie Jim Blyth stood no chance.

Graeme Souness, signed by Liverpool from Middlesbrough in January, 1978, couldn't have chosen a more fitting game to chalk up his first goal for us Reds.

We were at home to Manchester United in front of a packed house, and beat them 3-1.

Kenny Dalglish pulled the ball back from the United by-line for Graeme to volley from almost the penalty-spot into the left-hand corner of the net.

It was a difficult shot to keep low, as the ball arrived at hip height. Usually it's sent sailing over the bar

## Magnificent Dixie

Can you settle an argument with my sister? Which leg did the great "Dixie" Dean have amputated not long ago? And also how is he getting on?

AZIZI BIN ALI,  
WEST MALAYSIA

● The man they've called "the greatest British centre-forward of all time" — and his record 60 goals in 39 First Division games for Everton in 1927-28 hardly disputes it! — sadly had his once-lethal right leg amputated in Birkenhead General Hospital in December, 1976.

Tragically, after a series of operations, gangrene set in, and there was no other course open

But, celebrating his 70th birthday a few weeks later, "Dixie" — though BILLY Dean always loathed that nickname thrust upon him! — happily recovered well, and is said to be as cheerful as ever, and still taking a great interest in the game he graced so well.

## Third-place

Is it true Watford and Manchester United played a third-place play-off in the F.A. Cup in 1970?

ANDREW NEWLAND,  
STEVENAGE

● Quite true, Andrew. This game between the two beaten Semi-Finalists — played at Highbury the night before the Final — saw two goals from Brian Kidd put paid to gallant Watford 2-0.

## Cally

I was very pleased to see that fine player Ian Callaghan making an England comeback last season after so long — but was he the oldest-ever international?

DALE GASCOIGNE,  
HULL

● Evergreen Cally probably wouldn't mind being called a veteran in footballing terms, Dale — but, at 35, he was still a long way off being the oldest international.

In November, 1950, Leslie Compton (elder brother of famous Test cricketer Denis) was 38 years and two months old when he made his full England debut.

An old-timer Billy Meredith was just on 46 years old when, against England in March, 1920, he played the last of his 48 internationals for Wales.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

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# GOALS...

for the crowd to save.

Some readers may accuse me of being partisan, but I unashamedly pick another team-mate as a player who impressed me last season with his marksmanship. And not with just one, but two, great goals.

Kenny failed to equal Bob Latchford's total, but I doubt if numbered amongst them there was one to overshadow either of the Liverpool striker's brace for quality.

The scene for the first was Anfield. The opponents, Chelsea.

A long ball was played up from inside our half, between Kenny and their centre-back Micky Droy. Micky, under pressure, misheaded the ball which rebounded off full-back Ron Harris to Kenny, about 25-yards from goal.

Kenny rounded the defender, saw Peter Bonetti advancing off his line and, ice-cool, clipped the ball over his head and into the net.

It was similar to Terry McDermott's effort that was acclaimed as "Goal of the Season" for 1976-77, although in my opinion it was more difficult because Kenny was at an acute angle to the goal.

The second Dalglish dazzler came in our resounding 4-0 win at the end of the season over Manchester City at Anfield, when the team played exceptionally well to pip Everton for the runners-up spot in the League.

The ball was worked up to the right-hand corner of City's 18-yard box. In the space of three or four seconds it switched from Jimmy Case to Terry Mac, and finally to Kenny who drove it home, clear of Joe Corrigan.

The perfect way to round-off a hat-trick. And full credit to Jimmy and Terry, who combined with Kenny to create a superb example of free-flowing, one-touch play.

My goal number five came from Wolves' Kenny Hibbitt.

Kenny was 30 yards from the Arsenal goal, with his back to it, when the ball was lofted out. In one movement he kicked it back over his head, turned on a sixpence, ran a few steps and beat Pat Jennings with a fine chip-shot.

Obviously he'd seen Pat had come off his line and rather than blast the ball, as a less-experienced player would have done — and

played into Pat's big hands — elected for a delicate, unreachable placement.

My next selection is a goal scored against me, a match-winner from Man. United's Sammy McIlroy at Old Trafford.

Their Steve Coppell drove in a corner hard and low towards our near-post and a mass of players. It skidded off heads and Sammy, unmarked, volleyed past me.

Nottingham Forest had a superb season, so you'd expect me to include a goal scored by one of their players. And you'd be right.

John Robertson was the scorer. But, no, it wasn't the penalty-kick he put past me at Old Trafford in the League Cup replay to earn them the trophy.

It was in an F.A. Cup-tie, rearranged to a mid-week evening due to a water-logged pitch on the previous Saturday.

From a wing position, John wriggled into Man. City's "box", past Kenny Clements, looked up, saw that Joe Corrigan had the near-post covered, and promptly bent the ball into the far corner.

A goal worthy of the fabulous Brazilian, Pele, in his prime!

Martin Peters, a member of England's World Cup winning side in 1966, and captain of Norwich City, had another fine season, scoring

seven League goals.

Surely his best — and repeatedly shown on TV — was the one he scored against me at Carrow Road which enabled The Canaries to achieve a fortunate 2-1 win. We had at least 95 per cent of the play.

A lofted ball into our area was headed out by Phil Neal, challenged by their centre-forward.

From 25 yards, Martin struck a magnificent volley that went, too far and too fast, past my right-hand.

In contrast my next choice was not spectacular, but the finest-worked goal I saw last season.

Arsenal were at home to Walsall in the F.A. Cup, and The Gunners' polished display redeemed a disaster that had previously — in the 1930's I believe — befallen their club on Walsall's ground in the same competition.

Arsenal's goalscoring move began on the edge of their area with left-back Sammy Nelson. From him the ball flowed progressively to almost every member of the team until Malcolm Macdonald cut the ball back from the by-line for his partner, Frank Stapleton, to place easily past Walsall's 'keeper.

I complete my "top ten" with one from Van Binst of Anderlecht in the European Cup-Winners' Cup Final, against Austria Wien, which the Belgian club won.

He climaxed a long, incredible run from his own half with a crashing shot into the far corner of the net. A superb solo effort.

I disagree with TV commentator Barry Davies who felt the 'keeper should have saved the shot. In my view, he did everything right: came off his line, jumped well.

If at the end of 1978-79 I can compile a selection that matches the one I've made here, we're in for another exciting season of top-quality goals for our memory banks.

Till next week —



*Ray Clemence*

## SHORT PASSES

● The Football Association was formed in 1863; the Football League in 1888; the Scottish Football Association in 1873; the Scottish League in 1890.

(MARK WEAVER, New Zealand)

● Manchester City's record gate is 84,569 (v. Stoke; F.A. Cup Sixth Round; 3rd March, 1934); present capacity is 52,500.

(KETAN POROHI, Tanzania)

● Arsenal were known as Royal Arsenal from 1886 to 1891; and then as Woolwich Arsenal until 1914.

(DARRYL STEWART, Hull)

● England's first game at Wembley was a 1-1 draw against Scotland on 12th April, 1924.

(HENRIK MORTENSEN, Denmark)

● Emlyn Hughes was transferred from Blackpool to Liverpool in March, 1967.

(MICHELLE ROBERTS, Wirral)

● Scotland first competed in the World Cup in the 1954 competition.

(DION van HAL, Holland)

## Ronnie Simpson

How many times did that fine goal-keeper Ronnie Simpson play for Scotland?

VINCENT BROWN, HAMILTON

● Only five times in full internationals. Vincent — the significant thing being he was an "ancient" of 37 when he earned his first cap!

This was in 1967, the year he was also voted Scotland's "Footballer of the Year", and he came into the side which inflicted England's first defeat since they'd won the World Cup nine months earlier.

Between his first-class debut in the

first full post-War season of 1946-47, and his retirement in 1970, he played successively for Queen's Park, Third Lanark, Newcastle, Hibernian, and Celtic — seemingly getting better as he went along, and totting-up well over 600 League games all told.

During this time, Simpson picked-up a European Cup-winners' medal (1967), two F.A. Cup-winners' medals (1952 and 1955), three Scottish League Championship medals (1966, 1967, and 1968), a Scottish F.A. Cup-winners' medal (1967), and three Scottish League Cup-winners' medals (1966, 1967, and 1968).

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.



# Four stars recall

# THE BEST

DEFENCE

ATTACK

GOAL

GOAL AGAINST



**Clive Woods**  
(IPSWICH TOWN)

The best defence I came up against last season was Nottingham Forest's — I must choose them because apart from my personal experience against them a glance at the League table proves they conceded less goals, 24, than any other side in the Football League.

And of course their goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, is an important part of that defence and at the present time probably the number one goalkeeper in the game. I have seen him in matches where he has saved shots which would have been certain goals against any other 'keeper.

Attacking players who impressed me most in the past season were also Nottingham Forest men, Tony Woodcock and John Robertson. Tony is quick and skilful and knows where the goal lies. John Robertson is an example of what a first-class winger should be, and he poses plenty of problems for defenders. Then there is Kenny Dalglish of Liverpool, a very talented player who is so dangerous in and around the penalty-area.

The best goal I saw an Ipswich player score last season was the one Brian Talbot got for us in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final against West Bromwich. When Ipswich attacked, Mick Mills overlapped to carry on the movement, before sending over a cross that was bravely headed into the net by Brian in spite of close marking by Albion defenders. In the process of scoring, Brian received concussion and took no further part in the game.

And the best against Ipswich was in our home match against Derby County, which we lost 2-1, with Charlie George hitting one of his specials. It was Gerry Daly who set the goal up, when he beat two men, then back-heeled the ball to George — Charlie smacked it first time from 25 yards, and I doubt whether our goalkeeper, Paul Cooper, got a look at the ball before it flashed into the net.



**Mickey Walsh**  
(BLACKPOOL)

I rate Bolton Wanderers as having the best defence I played against last season, and the size of their players at the back makes it difficult to win balls in the air against them. Against Blackpool, they had Sam Allardyce, Mike Walsh and Paul Jones, all with the height to help them in their heading duels.

Also, Bolton's full-backs like to go forward, and I spent as much time marking one of their defenders as he spent on marking me, which cut down on my scope for attacking. All in all, Bolton make it very difficult for forwards who come up against them.

The ones who impressed me were Tottenham men, with Glenn Hoddle and Neil McNab in midfield, and Peter Taylor and John Duncan up-front.

Hoddle and McNab are very effective when going forward, with Spurs other midfield man playing a more defensive, holding game. And their front runners, Taylor and Duncan, take an awful lot of marking, making Spurs a side with quality in attack rather than defence.

Last season, the finest scored by Blackpool was in our home match at Bloomfield Road where we beat Blackburn 5-1. Their left-back, John Bailey, was robbed by Billy Ronson when in possession, and the ball went on to me on the wing. I hit it into the centre, and Bob Hatton raced forward to power a beautiful header into the net from 12 yards. It was at a time when Blackpool were having a good home run, scoring 13 goals in three outings — in addition to the five against Blackburn, we notched three against Hull and five against Charlton, with Bob Hatton being really outstanding with four goals.

Once again Spurs were the opponents and it was an effort by the stylish Glenn Hoddle that was perfectly executed. When a cross came over from the right, Glenn moved quickly around a defender, and took the ball in his stride — he let it bounce once, then hit it accurately into the far corner of the net. His coolness and control were absolutely first class.



LEFT . . . Peter Shilton is about to stop a point-blank header from Birmingham's Keith Bertschin.



RIGHT . . . Walsh was impressed by Spurs' Peter Taylor last season.



# OF LAST SEASON



**John Wile**  
(WEST BROM)

In my opinion, the hardest team to score against last season were Liverpool, because they seemed to get more men behind the ball than anybody else. They had the knack of making it more difficult for forwards to find shooting space than other sides I came up against.

When opposing players attacked on the flanks, the Liverpool men were clever at forcing the player in possession to send over a centre at an angle that favoured the Liverpool defence more than it did their opponents. If they had a weakness at the back at all, it came from dead-ball situations — but even then, there was a goalkeeper of the calibre of Ray Clemence to get them out of tight spots.

Nottingham Forest had the best attacking players last term, with Tony Woodcock the one who made the biggest impression on me. Some players have speed, others have control, but Tony combined the two very effectively and wasn't easy to pin down. John Roberston also showed good form, but he can be played with some success by a defender if the defender does not commit himself too quickly in a tackle, but can hold off and use jockeying tactics.

Generally speaking, Nottingham Forest could over-run another side by attacking if their opponents were not prepared to work as hard as Forest. Against them, it was important to match them in a physical sense by constantly chasing and not giving up — their capacity for going forward was impressive.

Definitely the one scored by Cyrille Regis for West Bromwich against Manchester City at Maine Road, where I was a spectator at a match that West Bromwich won 3-1.

Cyrille picked up the ball on the halfway line, and set off on a run that took him past two City defenders, Dave Watson and Mike Doyle. On the way through, Cyrille appeared to lose control of the ball for a split second, but recovered and seemed to gain half a yard in pace on the defenders as he moved forward to beat Joe Corrigan. The City fans sportingly gave Regis an ovation all the way back to the centre spot — and although I'm usually quite calm as a spectator, I was unable to stop myself rising off my seat and cheering a really great goal.

Cyrille, incidentally, scored an almost identical goal in our match with Middlesbrough, racing from the halfway line through the middle of the defence to beat Jim Platt.

The best one against West Bromwich last season was in our away game with Arsenal, where Malcolm Macdonald was the scorer. A West Bromwich forward lost the ball just inside the Arsenal half, and it was moved forward to Frank Stapleton. He made ground before sending over a centre, and it was at this point Malcolm showed his quick thinking — he feinted as though he was going to meet the ball first time, and took a defender out of position. Then he coolly met the ball with his head, and directed it into the net.

What made it a memorable goal was the fact Macdonald's judgment was perfect in this sort of situation — he knew precisely when to hang back, and then when to go for the ball.



**Tommy Hutchison**  
(COVENTRY)

Arsenal's defence is my choice as the best I met last season, particularly in the way they kept a close watch on Coventry's twin strikers, Mick Ferguson and Ian Wallace.

Playing four men up-front, we met opposing back-fours on a man-to-man basis last term, which often worked to our advantage, but Arsenal's defence did well against Coventry because of their tight marking. Ordinarily, Ian Wallace and Mick Ferguson find loop-holes in opposing defences, but it was the capable manner in which Arsenal set about closing the gaps which registered with me.

Last season, Champions Forest had the best players in attack, with Tony Woodcock outstanding. He was quick, sharp, and very skilful. And one of his best qualities was that of unselfish running into positions for the ball, even though there were times when he didn't receive it.

In addition to all that, Tony frequently made openings for his team-mates, with his approach work often leading to goals — and he was difficult to pick up and mark.

Another Forest player, John Robertson, impressed me. What stamps him as unusual is the fact he is right-footed but plays on the left. This means he can knock a ball accurately into the middle with his right foot if the way down the line is blocked — and it upsets defenders.

Ian Wallace scored a cracking goal for Coventry City against Norwich, and it could best be described as a "bicycle" kick. Ray Graydon got the ball on the right, and sent over a cross which appeared to be going just behind Ian — but somehow he made this acrobatic kick at the ball, and it flew into the net without giving Kevin Keelan a chance to see it, in spite of his quick reflexes.

And even the Norwich manager, John Bond, cheered the goal. There had seemed to be no way Ian could score from the angle he was facing when the centre came over, especially as he was closely marked at the time — so it had to be the goal of the season for Coventry.

The best registered against Coventry last term was hit by Jimmy Case when Liverpool met us at Coventry following a League Cup 2-2 draw at Anfield. The match at Highfield Road was the replay, and after a slow build-up on the Liverpool right, the ball came over to Jimmy, and he hit it first time.

I was standing directly behind him, and the ball flew like a rocket from his foot into the net — and although he was 25 yards from goal when he connected, I swear the ball would have killed a spectator if it had gone wide. It was a tremendous shot, delivered with real power, and I bracket Jimmy Case with Peter Lorimer in his ability to hit this sort of power drive.

DEFENCE

ATTACK

GOAL

AGAINST



LEFT . . . West Brom's Cyrille Regis (in action v. Leicester) scored a spectacular goal against Manchester City last term.



RIGHT . . . Jimmy Case (on the ball) hit a tremendous goal against Coventry in a League Cup game.



Week Ending MARCH 4...

## 'DOUBLE-TON' BROWN

THERE are shocks in store as the Fifth Round F.A. Cup replays get under way. Chelsea, a goal up at half-time against lowly Orient, blow home advantage as two late Peter Kitchen goals sink them.

And (until now) all-conquering Forest themselves struggle at home against struggling Q.P.R. — who, with Dave Clement sent-off, have only ten men to battle through extra-time. One bit of luck, though, for Forest — they win the toss for choice of ground in the second replay in two days' time.

Because of their small ground-capacity, Northern League part-timers Blyth Spartans forego home advantage for their replay with Wrexham, and take an "away-day" to nearby Newcastle.

A 42,000 crowd gives their finances a boost — and they nearly pull-off more. Only a highly-controversial Wrexham penalty ultimately separates the teams at 2-1 — with a plum home tie against Arsenal for the Welsh winners.

Not many players hit 200 League goals in England nowadays — but Tony Brown reaches his double-ton as up-coming West Bromwich win their local derby at Birmingham.

Liverpool are still bang on target for retaining the European Cup. A 2-1 win in Portugal over Benfica should leave them all-set to get into the Semi-Finals when the second-leg is played at Anfield.

But it's a night of mixed emotions in Birmingham. Spirited Villa hold Barcelona 2-2 in the first-leg of the U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter-Finals — but sadly, when opening goalscorer Johan Cruyff has to be substituted eight minutes from the end, we know it's the last time we'll see

him in competitive action in England.

Having characteristically dominated the game, the Dutch superstar limps-off to a deserved standing ovation — and then McNaught and Deehan signify their relief by getting two goals in the dying moments to give Villa a fighting chance.

At last, temporarily flickering Forest get through to the F.A. Cup Quarter-Finals — beating Q.P.R. 3-1 at third attempt to face a tough tie at West Bromwich next time out.

Forest also get back on the winning trail, League-wise, beating lowly West Ham 2-0. But they have to leave it late with both goals, one a penalty, in the closing minutes.

Chelsea, though, prove how difficult it is to win the pools! Having been blasted out of the Cup at home by Orient only five days earlier, they hit back to whack Liverpool 3-1 in the League — the second time they out-smart The Reds this season.

### ★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 4 — Coventry: Southend.  
TOTAL GOALS: 109.  
HAT-TRICKS: 2 — Ferguson (Coventry v. Birmingham); Warboys (Hull v. Millwall).  
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div 1, Forest; Div 2, Spurs; Div 3, Preston; Div 4, Watford.  
HIGHEST GATE: 46,332 — Man. Utd. v. Middlesbrough.  
TOTAL GATE: 558,913.  
AVERAGE GATE: 13,307.

## DONS OUTSHINE RANGERS

MOTHERWELL'S John Hagart, manager Roger Hynd's right-hand man at Fir Park, is appointed assistant to Scotland boss Ally MacLeod. Scotland manager reveals his World Cup hand. His pool of 40 has no real surprises.

Alan Hardaker, secretary of the English League, emphasises again that Ally will be given every co-operation from the South.

The "Northern Lights" of Aberdeen outshine the shooting stars of Rangers at Ibrox. A fine 3-0 victory by The Dons breathes life back into the Premier Division Championship... a competition which looked all but won by Rangers.

Archibald grabs two, Harper nets one. Jock Wallace is quick to praise Billy McNeill's team. "They played well, took their chances, and thoroughly deserved their win."

Only two other Premier Division games played. Clydebank and St. Mirren draw 2-2 in a local derby at New Kilbowie Park. Celtic break their losing

run by beating Dundee Utd. 1-0 away from home.

In a Scottish Cup Fourth-Round tie at Easter Road Hibs and Thistle stutter to a goal-less draw.

Peter Latchford, the big 'keeper who reversed football's most popular trend with a transfer from England to Scotland, receives the Celtic Supporters' Association's "Player of the Year Trophy".

### ★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

TOTAL GOALS: 47.  
TABLE TOPPERS: Rangers.  
PREMIER LEAGUE TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 55,000.  
HIGHEST GATE: 35,000 (Rangers v. Aberdeen).  
HIGHEST SCORE: 7 — Cowdenbeath.

Orient's highly-rated centre-forward Peter Kitchen (left) sinks Chelsea with two great late goals to knock The Blues out of the F.A. Cup Fifth Round replay. Peter Latchford (right) the giant goalkeeper who was transferred to Celtic from South to North of the border after several tremendous seasons with Birmingham City received the Celtic Supporters' Association Player of the Year award.



Week Ending MARCH 11...

## BAD NEWS FOR 'POOL

LOOKS LIKE Sir Alf Ramsey stands down from his reluctant stint as "temporary" Birmingham manager soon — and Norwich's John Bond is the man they want on a permanent basis. Norwich, however, get a bit uptight about "leaks" of a possible approach to Bond — and intimate "No way!"

You can't keep Tommy Doc out of the news for long. Now the Derby manager fines Scotland's World Cup skipper Bruce Rioch £450 for allegedly leaving the pitch without permission during last Saturday's game with Newcastle.

Rioch had a groin strain, but Docherty proclaims: "He didn't let anyone know to get the sub warmed-up — he just walked-off, and that could have cost us the game."

After landslide victories over Norway and Finland, England's youngsters come face-to-face with the hard bruising realities of European soccer when they meet determined Italy in the Quarter-Final first-leg of the Under-21 Championship. And, helped by two glorious goals from Forest's Tony Woodcock, they come through 2-1 with flying colours.

Ramsey finally severs his links with Birmingham but the hoped-for Bond deal is definitely off. Now they look hopefully in the direction of another go-ahead manager in Southampton's Lawrie McMenemy.

Despite rumours of dissension in the Derby camp, they roar back to form with a 4-2 win — and that's bad news for victims Liverpool, who now look incapable of bridging the gap above them and retaining the League title.

All the same, a domestic dispute which could well indirectly affect Scot-

land's coming World Cup hopes centres round skipper Bruce Rioch. Already fined a week's wages by Derby, now he and "The Doc" are involved in another heated argy-bargy after the Liverpool game. Looks like Rioch's career with Derby could be in jeopardy — and the disrupting circumstances could put his Argentina place in the balance.

Late Saturday afternoon comes — and we know three of the F.A. Cup Semi-Finalists. Momentarily uncertain Forest go down 2-0 at West Bromwich, while Wrexham's brave fight isn't quite enough to stop Arsenal's 3-2 win.

And the Orient Express — two First Division scalps already — rumbles on to draw 0-0 at Middlesbrough for a well-earned home replay.

Ipswich win at Millwall in the other Quarter-Final — but only after a pitch-invasion causes an 18-minute halt when Ipswich are leading by a slender 1-0. Less unsettled by the trouble, they return to run out easy 6-1 winners, with an impressive hat-trick for Paul Mariner.

### ★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 6 — Ipswich.  
TOTAL GOALS: 97.  
HAT-TRICKS: 1 — Mariner (Ipswich v. Millwall).  
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div 1, Forest; Div 2, Spurs; Div 3, Cambridge; Div 4, Watford.  
HIGHEST GATE: 48,233 — Liverpool v. Leeds.  
TOTAL GATE: 533,272.  
AVERAGE GATE: 13,673.

## BRILLIANT COME BACK

IN TWO midweek Cup battles the shocks continue. The holders, Celtic, crash as part-timers Kilmarnock deservedly win the replay 1-0. Parkhead skipper Roy Aitken is sent-off after 57 mins. The previous week the two sides tie 1-1 at Parkhead.

The on-off game between Thistle and Hibs finally goes ahead. At a rain-soaked Firhill, manager Bertie Auld sees his team fight back from 1-0 down to go through to the Quarter-Finals. Jim McIlrose scores twice to give Thistle a 2-1 result.

More Cup action on the Saturday. Rangers dump Kilmarnock 4-1. Johnny Hamilton, out in the cold at Ibrox for ten months, makes a brilliant comeback.

He scores a goal and directs the Rangers winning machine... earning himself a £100 "Man of the Match" award.

Aberdeen draw 2-2 with Morton, but Dundee Utd. beat Queen's Park 2-0 and Thistle beat Dumbarton 2-1 to go into the "Semis".

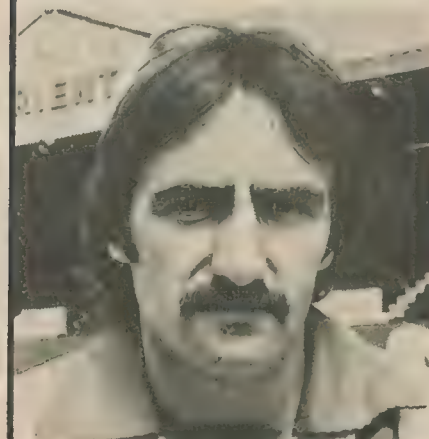
In the Premier Division Celtic score three against Ayr, Motherwell hit two against Clydebank and Hibs thrash St. Mirren 5-1.

Pat Stanton wins battle back to fitness. He comes on in the second-half in a Celtic reserves match with Ayr United. Ayr win 4-1 but Stanton is delighted with his comeback.

Pat damaged a cartilage in the opening game of the season against Dundee Utd. on August 13.

### ★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

TOTAL CUP GOALS: 14  
TOTAL GOALS: 33.  
TABLE TOPPERS: Rangers.  
HIGHEST CUP GATE: 20,000 (Rangers v. Kilmarnock).  
HIGHEST PREMIER GATE: 16,000 (Celtic v. Ayr).  
HIGHEST SCORE: 5 — Hibs.





# 1977-78 SEASON IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

Week Ending MARCH 18th ...

## BIG MAL RETURNS

**B**IRMINGHAM appoint a permanent team-boss at last — and he's Blackburn's Jim Smith, one of the game's most promising younger managers.

Lowly, plucky Orient do it again — edging out Middlesbrough 2-1 in their replay — so it's to be Ipswich v. West Brom., and an all-London Orient-Arsenal clash, for the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals. The bookies' Wembley verdict — The Gunners firm favourites at 11-to-8, followed by Albion at 2-to-1.

Forest go back six points clear at the top, though a little less fluently than expected. It needs John Robertson to be spot-on with a penalty to provide the only goal of their home game against bottom-club Leicester.

In the Fourth, Watford drop both points to Huddersfield — but, still eight in the lead, are clearly none too despondent about it.

No such indecisiveness next day by Liverpool. In a superb display, they demolish Benfica 4-1 — to add to their earlier 2-1 win in Portugal — to cruise very comfortably through to the European Cup Semi-Finals.

But despite a great fight — John Gidman is sent-off, and Villa have to battle uphill for 67 minutes with ten men — Cruyff & Co. triumph 2-1 in Barcelona for a 4-3 winning aggregate in the U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter-Final.

Big Mal's back! Extrovert and controversial soccer wanderer Malcolm Allison — temporarily back from the States, and points East — returns to one of his old clubs, Plymouth, as "consultant manager" until the end of the season in a bid to save them from relegation to the Fourth Division.

Says Mal: "I had a couple of months to spare, so rang the chairman and offered my services in a temporary job I see as 70 per cent coaching and 30 per cent man-management."

Fans pay a massive £377,000 to see the top stars of England's currently most exciting teams, Forest and Liverpool, battle out the goalless League Cup Final at Wembley. But it's an 18-year-old "unknown" — who's never yet played a League game, and only gets in because Shilton is Cup-tied — who wins all the praise and the headlines.

Liverpool hold all the aces — Forest are well below strength — and have all the play. But they reckon without Chris Woods, youngest 'keeper ever to play in a big Wembley game, who stops everything thrown at him as the coolest kid around the soccer scene all season. Honest one-word verdict of Ray Clemence at the other end — "Fantastic!" And 100,000 spectators agree with Ray.

### ★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 5 — Leeds; Sheffield Utd.  
TOTAL GOALS: 94  
HAT-TRICKS: 1 — Crooks (Stoke v. Blackburn).  
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div 1, Forest; Div 2, Spurs; Div 3, Wrexham; Div 4, Watford.  
HIGHEST GATE: 100,000 — Liverpool v. Forest (League Cup Final; Wembley).  
TOTAL GATE: 540,900.  
AVERAGE GATE: 15,908.

## NO HONOURS FOR CELTIC

**R**ANGERS' winger Bobby McKean found dead in blue Opel Manta car in the garage of his house.

Celtic meet Rangers in the Scottish League Cup at Hampden. The Ibrox outfit take the first step towards lifting the treble with a 2-1 win after extra-time.

A noisy 60,000 crowd see Rangers' Davie Cooper score a great first goal, then Johannes Edvaldsson head in a Sneddon cross to put the game into a further 30 minutes.

Three minutes from the whistle Alex MacDonald and Peter Latchford clash going for a high ball. It breaks to Gordon Smith who nods the ball into an empty net.

There's a hic-cup in Aberdeen's chase for the Premier Division flag. They fail to score in the match against Dundee Utd. and can only pick up one point.

In a fine game at Firhill Motherwell

are the 3-2 victors over Thistle. Hibs score three against Clydebank, and St Mirren grab the only goal of the match as they meet Ayr.

Celtic are now lying third from the foot of the table and have no chance of picking up any honours this season.

### ★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

TOTAL GOALS: 42.  
TABLE TOPPERS: Rangers.  
PREMIER DIVISION TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 23,100  
HIGHEST GATE: 11,500 (Dundee Utd v. Aberdeen)  
HIGHEST SCORE: 4 — Stranraer

Derby's Bruce Rioch (second left) is fined £450 by Tommy Docherty. Big Malcolm Allison (left) returns to Plymouth. Forest's John Robertson (below No 11) wins the League Cup for them with this penalty-kick v. Liverpool.

Week Ending MARCH 25 ...

## GROUND CLOSED!

**A**N EARLY Easter looms up — and this is the traditional crunch-time for Championship, promotion, and relegation candidates. And hardly calculated to help — with three games in four days for many clubs — several report worrying injury problems.

Bristol City and Chelsea start their own holiday-season in midweek — but hardly in the best of holiday spirit, with a player each sent-off.

That Old Mal Magic seems to be working again! Allison, having guided Plymouth to his first win over Oxford on Saturday, now master-minds a whopping 5-1 slamming of fellow-strugglers Portsmouth.

Whatever other problems at home, English fans are clearly nuts about Brazil. The coming friendly against them is already a Wembley sell-out — a month in advance of kick-off.

Wednesday sees the League Cup Final replay — and teenage whizz-kid Chris Woods does it again! He's right in the thick of it as below-strength Forest, against all the odds, once more defy and deny the might of the European Champions — and, this time, with a spot of silverware as their reward. A 53rd-minute John Robertson penalty, after a controversial "professional foul" by Phil Thompson around the very edge of the area, is enough to break both the deadlock and Liverpool.

But there's one real sensation involving the "terrible" disciplinary record of Ian Callaghan. Cally actually gets BOOKED for the first time in his career — and the youngster was only playing his 849th senior game for Liverpool!

As a result of the rumpus at the Ipswich F.A. Cup-tie, Millwall's ground is closed for a fortnight — and now the relegation-threatened club face a desperate hunt to find suitable venues for

their next two "home" games.

It's Hot-Cross-Fun on Good Friday — as West Ham, gallantly staging their annual escape bid against potential relegation, enjoy an eight minute hat-trick by David Cross to hammer Ipswich. Forest have a rest-day, but Everton's 2-0 win at struggling Newcastle brings them to within three points — though Cloughie's lads have three games in hand. But, with the referee having to hold up play for serious crowd-violence, Newcastle may face disciplinary action similar to that just handed-out to Millwall.

In the Battle of The Blues, the Cambridge boat sinks in the Boat Race — and, in the battle of The Red cards, soccer's image also sinks with three more players sent-off to bring up the season's total to an unenviable new record worst of 109.

John Robertson slams in his eighth consecutive penalty as Forest succeed against Newcastle. But so do Everton and Arsenal (a "Supernac" hat-trick) with their own wins to keep right behind in the table.

### ★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 5 — Stoke.  
TOTAL GOALS: 116  
HAT-TRICKS: 2 — Macdonald (Arsenal v. West Bromwich); Syrett (Mansfield v. Spurs).  
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div 1, Forest; Div 2, Spurs; Div 3, Wrexham; Div 4, Watford.  
HIGHEST GATE: 45,020 — Everton v. Leeds  
TOTAL GATE: 614,615.  
AVERAGE GATE: 13,968.

## ABERDEEN CHALLENGE

**S**COTLAND fans shocked! Danny McGrain is out of the World Cup. The Celtic skipper was injured in October during a game at Parkhead with Hibs. What seemed a simple ankle knock puts him out of action for the rest of the season.

It is now no secret that the player has a diabetic condition. It is a cruel blow for Scottish hopes in the Argentinian campaign.

Danny, one of the nicest guys in the game says: "You have to take the good with the bad. I played in the World Cup in West Germany and it was a wonderful experience."

"There are better players than I who have never played at that level."

But it's "just what the doctor ordered" for Celtic when they chalk up their first victory of the season over Rangers at Parkhead. In a tremendous first-half display they pick up two goals

and two points.

The Aberdeen challenge is kept up with a convincing 4-1 win over Ayr at Pittodrie. Hibs beat Dundee Utd. 3-1. Thistle draw 0-0 with Clydebank, while St. Mirren and Motherwell score one goal apiece.

But there is still another shock in store for the Celtic fans. Manager Jock Stein is reported to the S.F.A. for remarks he made to the ref. after his team's League Cup defeat.

### ★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

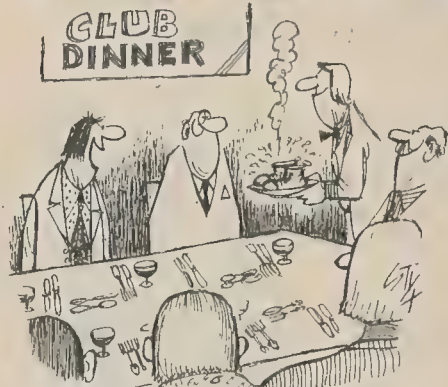
TOTAL GOALS: 47.  
TABLE TOPPERS: Rangers.  
PREMIER DIVISION TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 79,000.  
HIGHEST GATE: 50,000 (Celtic v. Rangers).  
HIGHEST SCORE: 4 — Aberdeen.





# FOOTBALL FUNNIES

CLUB  
DINNER



"Remember saying, boss, that you'd eat your boots if we didn't win promotion?"



"Funny you can't find the back of their net. Yet when it comes to passing the ball back to our 'keeper..."



This week Bristol Rovers' player-coach BOBBY GOULD selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"World Cup football — his wife slung him out"



"I'm so sorry I lost my temper — here are your teeth"



"Why don't you go to America, boss? You might just as well be a failure over there as over here"

## FACTS, FIGURES AND PHOTOS from the big names and big games in soccer

- \* Colour photos of:  
Pat Jennings (Arsenal)  
Trevor Cherry (Leeds)  
Nottm. F v Man City  
West Ham v Wolves
- \* ABC rundown on all the American Clubs
- \* Four top stars choose their most Improved Player of the Year
- \* Famous Football Families

There's more too, from regular Shoot! columnists Danny McGrain, John Greig Ray Clemence, Gordon Hill, Andy Gray and Ray Wilkins. Plus regular Shoot! features 'Football Funnies', News Desk, World Wide and You Are The Ref.

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# BILL RAFFERTY-

## THE SHARPSHOOTING NEW RECRUIT WHOSE GOALS HELPED WOLVES BEAT THE DROP

**D**ELIGHTED to be back in the First Division — that's how Bill Rafferty described his £125,000 move from Carlisle to Wolves last March.

For ever since Coventry City sold him to Blackpool six years ago the tall Scottish sharpshooter has always had a craving to return to the top flight.

"It's been my number one ambition," he says, "but I did begin to think it would never happen. I've always scored plenty of goals, always been more or less around the 20 mark every term, and I thought to myself, 'Well, what else have I got to do?'"

"Eventually it paid off. I kept snapping up the chances and in the end someone did come along.

"I was very impressed with the set-up at Wolves. They're a smashing bunch of lads — dead easy to get on with. It's a happy club, so I was really pleased."

How did the move come about? "I'd just finished training in the morning and I was all set to go and play at Chester that same night. I went home for a spot of lunch, then I had a phone call from Carlisle boss, Bobby Moncur. He told me to come to the ground straightaway. He said Wolves had stepped in. So I packed my bags, travelled down the M6, had talks, and signed.

"I was half-expecting it, yet when it did come it took me completely by surprise.

### 'No Regrets'

"I was always happy at Carlisle. It's a marvellous club and I never had any regrets about going there in the first place. It's always sad when you leave a club, but I wanted to play in the First Division.

"I haven't found many problems in adjusting to the pace. You have to be slightly quicker because in the Third you are allowed that extra second. You have to have that goalscoring knack, whichever Division you are playing in. Chances are harder to come by in the First; people don't make as many mistakes. The most important thing I've come across is players read the game better."

Rafferty, now 27 and born in Port Glasgow, began his career at Coventry in 1968 at the age of 17 after starting work as an apprentice draughtsman.

"I was only at it six months," he says, "then the chance came. I only wanted to do one thing and that was to play football."

In 1972 Billy went to Blackpool in an exchange deal with winger

Tommy Hutchison. Two years later the much-travelled goalscorer arrived at Plymouth and alongside Paul Mariner scored 27 goals in the promotion-winning team of 1975.

"I've often wondered why I've moved around so much," he says. "I've never had any problems with anybody, and I've always scored plenty of goals. It was a big surprise when Plymouth sold me to Carlisle in May, 1976. I had a wonderful partnership with Paul. I could never understand why they let me go and a couple of months later they sold him to Ipswich. They left themselves short on goalscorers, didn't they?"

### 'Both goals'

"The first time we've been on the field together since that time was when Ipswich played Wolves at Portman Road in the final match of last season. It seems funny I should score both goals in our 2-1 win.

"Towards the end of the term it did get a bit worrying — especially the last couple of weeks — because it did look as though Wolves would be relegated.

"Like everyone else at Wolverhampton I'm very excited at avoiding the dreaded drop. It was the week over Easter that put us in trouble.

"In the last four games the lads really knuckled down to it and we put up some great performances.

"At Chelsea we played them off the park and that really was a tense match. We desperately needed something from that and we got it by way of a 1-1 draw.

"But the pressure was on us most when we entertained Manchester United on April 29th. We knew we had to win that game, for to be safe we wanted five points from the remaining three fixtures. We won 2-1, but I think if we had drawn that match, then it would have been really crucial.

"At times like that you tend to think about the silly points that were thrown away and of the goals that might have been.

"Sammy Chung bought me to link with John Richards. He just thought we could form a good relationship, although it was a little slow getting off the ground.

"John missed the first game. He's been having trouble with a knee and he was struggling. Then I received an ankle injury and was only half-fit, plus the fact the whole team was having a thin time. But in the last five or six games things began to click.

"We set up quite a few chances for each other, and in the decisive home game against Aston Villa when they were challenging for Europe and we were fighting for our First Division lives, John put

us ahead and I set it up for him.

"John Deehan equalised. Then we went 2-1 up through young Mel Eves. It was a cliffhanger all the way because Aston Villa really came at us. But five minutes before time Steve Daley crossed and I flung myself forward to head home. That settled the matter. It made First Division football at Molineux next season an absolute certainty.

"If we'd shown that sort of form over Easter, then we could have been qualifying for Europe. In the end we finished eighth from the bottom.

"Richards had been going through a lean spell and strikers do get anxious. After I scored my first goal for the Molineux club against West Ham, it was another nine or ten games before I notched my second.

### 'Justified'

"With the pressure off next term I think Sammy Chung's faith will be fully justified. It has been beneficial to come in when I did and to play so many matches. Every game I've been learning more about John's positioning and the types of passes he prefers. But it does take time.

"It all augurs well for next season. We finished on a high note and I'm really looking forward to it... I can't wait."



Rafferty dives to head the third decisive goal for Wolves against Aston Villa in their final home match of last season.



# THRILL-FILLED FOOTBALL

THE 1978 World Cup Finals were regarded by many as one of the best. It was excitement all the way. Here, once again, we bring some of the action from the climax to the First Round games.

Brazil's Corozo (left) in a tussle with San Jose of Spain. This Group Three match finished a disappointing 0-0 draw.

Italian defenders block an effort from Argentina's Valencia. In a thrilling encounter Enzo Bearzot's side triumphed 1-0 with an opportunist goal from Bertog.

After two disastrous games against Peru and Iran, Scotland restored some of their pride when they beat Holland 3-2. Here, Joe Jordan gets above Dutch keeper Jongbloed but just misses with his header.









## THEY GUESSED WRONG...

**ABOVE . . . Ipswich Town 'keeper Paul Cooper goes the wrong way as West Brom's Tony Brown blasts home a penalty.**

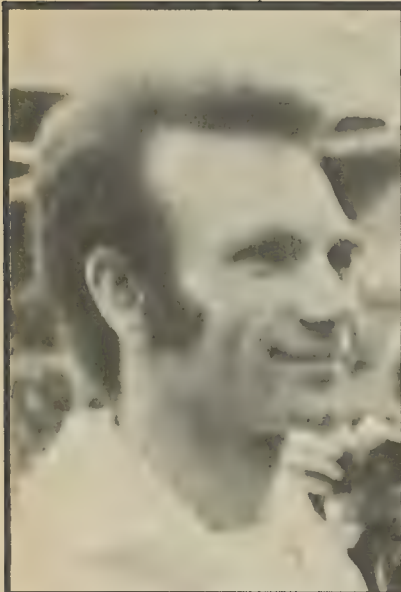
**RIGHT . . . Peter Bonetti makes a mistake as Liverpool's Phil Neal places his spot-kick to the right of the Chelsea number one. Although this goal put 'Pool 1-0 up, the London club fought back to win 3-1.**



**BELOW . . . Stan Bowles (number 10) beats John Shaw in the Bristol City goal with his second attempt. Bowles had to take the penalty again because the 'keeper first moved before the ball was kicked.**







# REANEY & CLARKE TAKE THE HARD ROAD BACK TO THE TOP



**F**ORMER England stars Allan Clarke and Paul Reaney will kick off next August with one ambition — to help their new clubs to jump out of the Fourth Division at the first attempt.

"We've no intention of staying in the bottom sphere a minute longer than necessary," chorused the two ex-former Leeds United idols as they bade a joint farewell to their former teammates the other day.

"We're very ambitious — always have been," said 31-year-old Clarke, the goal-poaching striker who took over as Barnsley's player-manager the same day hard-tackling full-back Reaney moved to Bradford City on a free transfer.

The slim Midlander, who won 19 England caps and has scored over 200 goals for Walsall, Fulham, Leicester and Leeds, went on: "I know The Reds haven't been in Division Two since they were relegated in 1958-59, but the potential is there. They're a Second Division set-up and it's my intention to prove it.

"The ground holds about 38,000 and a successful team ought to be able to attract 20,000 a match. There's a huge population to draw on in these parts."

Clarke, whose swift departure surprised Leeds fans, admits he had to think long and hard before opting out of the top flight.

"I believe I could have carried on scoring goals in the First Division — I've fully recovered from the knee trouble which kept me out of action for most of last season," he says.

"But I've long had a yearning for management and Barnsley's offer was too good to turn down."

Leeds boss Jimmy Armfield tried to persuade his scoring ace to stay at Elland Road, but Clarke reluctantly went through with the move. He explained: "Leeds have been wonderful to me and I'm leaving on friendly terms with everyone. Who knows, I might want to return there one day.

"Obviously there's a lot of hard work ahead at Barnsley and as I haven't seen the side play I shall have a lot of research to do during the next couple of months.

"But any team which finishes sixth — as Barnsley did last season — must stand a good chance of going up next time. And I hope it doesn't sound boastful to point out my signing must considerably strengthen the side.

"One of my first jobs on taking over will be to sort out some close-season friendlies so I can see what sort of a squad I've inherited," added the talented forward who was Leeds' costliest signing when they bought him from Leicester for £160,000 in 1969.

Clarke, who will go down in history as the man whose goal won Leeds their first and only F.A. Cup Final — the centenary affair against Arsenal in 1972 —



Reaney (left) and Clarke (third left) after Leeds United's 1972 F.A. Cup success v. Arsenal.

has taken one leaf out of former boss Don Revie's book. He intends to create a family spirit at Oakwell, as he demonstrated by getting all the staff together — players, tea-ladies, clerical staff, laundry girls, cleaners, the lot — as soon as he moved into the job.

"I want everyone to realise this club belongs to us all — not just to the players and manager," he explained. "If I can make Barnsley F.C. into one big, happy family I think the club can look forward to a bright future."

Former Leeds City schoolboy Reaney, Bradford City's most

famous ever signing, is equally optimistic about his new club, although he appreciates he is just one cog in the wheel.

"Allan will have to run the show," he says. "I'll be able to concentrate on my playing and, believe me, that won't be hard to do.

"I'm in fine shape and dying to prove those who say I'm over the hill because I'm 33 are talking nonsense.

"I'm not going to Valley Parade for a holiday. I'm terrifically ambitious and I see this move as a challenge. I'm still hungry for

glory despite winning stacks of medals in my 17 years at Elland Road."

Like Clarke, who has cost Barnsley a mere £45,000, London-born Reaney admits Elland Road has become a second home for him. "I've played in nine Cup Finals, won two League Championship medals, five England Under-23 caps and three full caps and shared some marvellous experiences with wonderful characters.

"Being part of Don Revie's team of the Sixties is a memory I shall always cherish. But times change and clearly Leeds boss Jimmy Armfield could no longer guarantee me first team football so I decided to leave Elland Road.

"I opted for Bradford City because their chairman, Bob Martin, and manager, John Napier, impressed me as men with big ideas and, what's more important, the ability to bring them to fruition.

"They intend to take the club places and they convinced me I can help them to achieve their ambition. I haven't seen the Paraders play, but my old mate at Leeds, striker David McNiven, tells me they have some useful lads with the prospect of another 'star name' being recruited before the big kick-off.

"There's no doubt the management have their eyes fixed on greater things and their lottery is providing them with the cash to raise justifiable hopes Bradford City will soon no longer be a joke."

With this parting shot, Reaney and Clarke left Elland Road for the last time. Leeds had lost two players who between them had clocked up a thousand games for the club and the Fourth Division had landed star attractions guaranteed to add a lot of spectators to gladden the hearts of hard-pressed club secretaries next winter.



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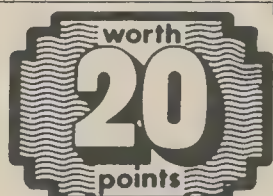
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# 'MY SHOOT COULD BREAK

"A friend told me you once frightened the life out of your England team-mates. I can't believe this is true. What does she mean?" writes Jennifer Gosling, who lives in Eastleigh, Hampshire.

I reckon your friend is referring to the time I wandered around the England team's hotel headquarters wearing a werewolf's mask, Jennifer.

This was early last season when Kevin Beattie and I played a practical joke on our squad mates and the guests of the hotel.

Beat wore a zombie mask and we walked around in the dark outside the dining room peering in at the people eating their evening meal.

I mentioned the incident in my column at the time.

Incidentally, Kevin borrowed my werewolf mask to wear at a party after Ipswich Town's F.A. Cup triumph.

Just to prove the masks exist, Beat had a photo taken with Allan Hunter as the zombie.

As you will see they are much better looking with them on!

Seriously, Beat and I enjoy a good laugh and our nightmarish routine went down so well with the rest of the England lads they now insist the masks are present when the squad is assembled.

In fact I received several letters after my "Night of the Werewolf" column asking if the mask is for sale, or if I'd like to donate it to some charity.

Sorry, readers, I've become quite attached to "Hairy 'Arry".

Quite a few of you also want to know how I get along with SHOOT's other columnists from the English Football League, Ray Clemence, Ray Wilkins and Andy Gray.

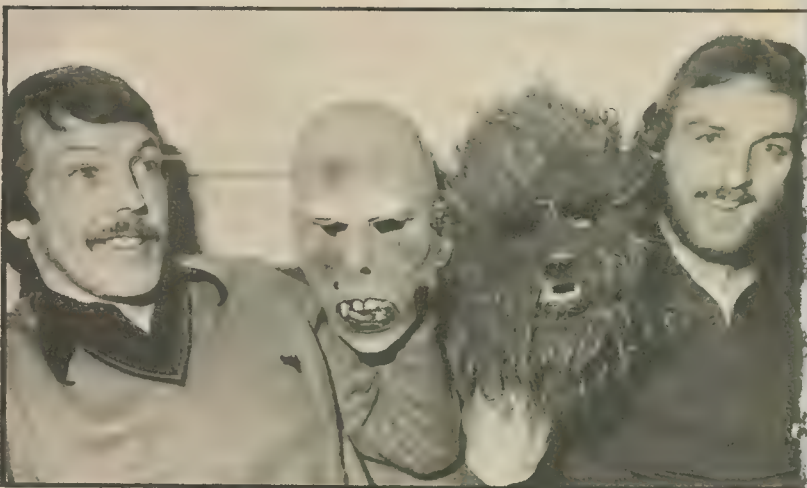
We all enjoy each other's company and, among other things, discuss our columns whenever we meet.

Ray Clem did get a little upset once because I said I believed Peter Shilton was a better 'keeper.

my soccer scene

## GORDON HILL

Zombie Allan Hunter . . . Werewolf Kevin Beattie.





# TEAM-MATE BOBBY MOORE'S RECORD'

He didn't hold any grudges, though, and we are still great mates. I always look forward to seeing Clem, especially during international call-ups.

While the Liverpool star is generally laughing and joking, Ray Wilkins is quieter and to outsiders more aloof.

Chelsea's captain has an air of class about him . . . rather like Bobby Moore in his heyday as skipper of West Ham, Fulham and England.

For me Ray is going to develop into one of the truly great England



players . . . like Moore.

He settled into the England side so easily and quickly that I can see him being there for many years.

The way he's progressed, Ray could break Bobby's record total of 108 caps.

I'm also friendly with Andy Gray and we generally make a point of seeing each other for a chat when our paths cross in the League.

Andy is a very friendly lad . . . and a hell of a striker. What a mistake it was leaving him out of Scotland's final World Cup squad.

I bet few other teams out in Argentina had one of their best players sitting at home in a TV studio commenting on the matches.

Tony Barker from Derby asks how I felt being left out of the England



Gordon with fellow columnists Ray Wilkins and Ray Clemence in Luxembourg last October.

team that played Italy in the World Cup-tie at Wembley last November.

How do you think I felt, Tony? I was sick and utterly disappointed . . . although deep down I half expected to be dropped.

After England had beaten Luxembourg 2-0 away, Ron Greenwood told us the combination wasn't quite right and he'd probably have to make changes for the Italy game.

I suspected I'd be one of the players to be replaced. I was along with my pal Paul Mariner.

But I don't blame Ron Greenwood for making the changes. He was trying to find a successful style of play and did what he thought was right for England.

Malcolm Taylor who lives in Shoreham, Sussex, wants to know if I can explain why I didn't hit top form for England last season.

"After all," he says, "the side is crying out for a winger with your

skills. Neither Peter Barnes nor Steve Coppell have really impressed me. The position is up for grabs . . . and you blew it."

Well, naturally I tried my best to produce a stunning performance against Luxembourg. But as is generally the case, the more I tried the less effective I became.

Maybe the problems that were brewing under the surface at Manchester United had some bearing on my performances, although I'm not searching for excuses.

It was a very worrying period for me, though, not knowing if I had a future at Old Trafford or not.

But I'll be back. I've set my heart on regaining my place in the full England side and helping them win the European Championship and reach the 1982 World Cup Finals.

Lovely Ann Banks (thanks for the photo) from Preston asks if I have any regrets about leaving United.

Of course I have, Ann. It was only during the last few months things started to turn sour and get on top of me.

I have many happy memories of my two-and-a-half years at Old Trafford.

The people I'll miss most are the fans . . . that wonderful Red Army. They gave me so much encouragement and support it was like playing in front of my very own fan club.

I only hope I can earn the same respect from the Derby crowd.

"How do you find Charlie George?" Is a question posed by Ray Blinky from Nottingham.

We are mates off the park, Ray. I'm sure we'll also become a big hit on the field next season.

Charlie was so keen to play alongside me, I believe he asked Tommy Docherty to try and buy me soon after he took over at the Baseball Ground.

## Tragedy

At Old Trafford I never really developed a twin partnership with anyone up-front.

Now at Derby I hope to combine with Charlie to form one of the most deadly duos in the country.

This lad has so much skill. It's a tragedy he's not using it for England. Charlie's talents deserve to be displayed on the international arena.

Quite a few letters are from Derby fans and they all want to know if I honestly feel the club can be successful next season.

Yes I do. I wouldn't have agreed to rejoin The Doc if I hadn't believed Derby had the talent and resources to land among top honours.

The fans must also have faith in Tommy Doc and his ability to build a winning side. I understand the club has already taken over £600,000 in season ticket sales.

Well, I'm afraid space has beaten me. I'll answer some more of your letters next week.

All the best for now. Keep smiling and stay happy . . .

*Gordon*



At first Chinese soccer fans called West Bromwich Albion "WEST BLOM".

But when they heard they were nicknamed "The Baggies" the polite, and sporting Chinese translated that into their native tongue, and the most accurate translation they could come up with was:

"THE TEAM WHO PLAYS IN WIDE TROUSERS."

I don't know what West Brom fans will make of that but they can feel proud of the exhausting but highly successful 22,000 miles round trip Ron Atkinson and his lads made to the People's Republic of China.

It was the first time any British or European team had pierced the Bamboo curtain. It was the first time the club had attempted such a long tour at such short notice.

But at the end of it, everyone agreed — particularly the Chinese soccer fans — West Brom had made a big hit, for British soccer.

Consider for a moment these lads, in the space of 18 days covered 22,000 miles by plane and train. They played five matches (if you include the final one in Hong Kong). Won all five, scored 16 goals against one. And they played before a quarter of a million spectators.

With the British Championship and the build-up to the World Cup, these achievements by the West Brom party led by chairman Bert Millichip did not get the publicity they deserved.

It was in fact a journey into the unknown. Originally West Brom were

Mick Martin (left), Bryan Robson, manager Ron Atkinson and Alistair Brown arrive back at Heathrow after their exhausting but rewarding tour of China.



Frank Taylor has travelled the world covering football. Here he reports on one of his most unusual, and enjoyable, assignments: traveling with the West Bromwich Albion team behind the bamboo curtain to spread the gospel of British soccer.

Excited Chinese fans await the arrival of the West Brom team coach before one of their games.



West Brom lead 2-1, we think!

英国  
市朗米奇

2

## WEST BROM MAKE THE

going on an end of season tour to a paradise island in the Caribbean. All that was changed when the Chinese asked for one of England's top clubs to make a tour.

The reason for this, was the much-publicised Cosmos team from the United States with their ageing stars Pele and Beckenbauer had gone to Red China to play matches. They were not impressive. They lost one match, drew the other, and now the Chinese wanted to find out by playing against the professionals of Britain, just how highly their soccer rated.

Consider for a moment the problems the West Brom players faced. They were, to say the least, a trifle apprehensive as to what was in store for them. As John Trewick told me before we boarded our jumbo jet at Heathrow on May 11: "I think we are all a bit worried. We don't know what to expect."

West Brom left Birmingham on Thursday May 10 to travel to London, where they stayed overnight. The plane trip via Rome, Bahrain, Calcutta to Hong Kong took 18 hours and it was a rather weary group of players who staggered off the airplane on Saturday afternoon May 12 ... all suffering from jet lag.

On Sunday, we were on the train at 8 a.m. bound for the border and then Red China.

We reached Canton around 3 p.m. and faced another problem. There were no seats on the aircraft taking the players to Peking that day. The temperature was in the 90's. Everyone slept under mosquito nets with fans going full blast to keep cool.

On Monday May 14, we caught a Trident for Peking, three-and-a-half hours away by air. It was a smooth and comfortable flight, although the players were surprised just prior to take off, to be given a packet of cigarettes, a packet of sweets, and a Chinese fan ... the sort the Geisha girls use.

"What's this?" asked one. "Well, if the engine cuts out as we take off, you flap it like mad to get us airborne," replied another.

The most surprised man when we reached Peking was World Cup referee Jack Taylor. The Chinese asked him to become the first Briton ever to referee an important Chinese soccer match between Peking and Tientsin. It says a lot for Jack's fitness, that after all those hours of travel, he was out on the pitch within three hours of our landing, refereeing the match.

### Film star

He didn't know of course his fame had preceded him. The World Cup Final of 1974, when Jack was the man in the middle, was not televised in China. But the film of the World Cup series was, and it played to packed houses. Thus Jack became a favourite and film star in China for his efficient handling of the World Cup Final, without him being aware of it!

Yet, that match played havoc with an old injury. The following day Jack was crippled and could hardly walk. He had heat treatment and massage, and it seemed certain he would not be able to referee West Brom's first

match against a Peking Select XI on Wednesday May 15. On the morning of the match he told me he would allow himself to undergo an acupuncture operation in a last gambler's fling to get himself fit. An hour before kick-off the acupuncture specialist arrived in the dressing-room.

"I suddenly felt a pain in my right ear," Jack told me later. "And then another in my left ear. It was like the pain from a dentist's needle. That was all I felt."

After having his ears pricked to cure his ankle injury, Jack went out to referee as normal, running backwards and forwards without any sign of discomfort. Running the line was another Briton, Graham Perry, of West Middlesex Refs, who is vice-chairman of the London Export Corporation who organised the tour.

Bertie Mee, manager of Arsenal when they did the double, was also on the trip. He is of course, a famous physiotherapist in his own right. "I could not see any way Jack could referee with that Achilles tendon injury," Bertie told me. "Normally he would have needed rest, massage etc ... and I was most surprised to see him go out and referee without any problems."

The West Brom players had a shock, too. They played before a gate of 80,000. There are no parking problems at Chinese soccer grounds because there are so few cars. But there are over three million cyclists in Peking alone, which meant 80,000 crowd arrived either on foot or by bike.

For long periods most of that crowd



The two teams enter the stadium holding hands in friendship.

were silent. There was an excited chatter like a vast throng of starlings before the teams made their appearance. But once play started, there was no singing, no chanting, no booing. Just an occasional hiss of displeasure, when a Chinese player made a bad pass or didn't shoot accurately.

There was a hiss of disapproval over one of Jack Taylor's decisions, but immediately the lady on the loud speaker system explained what the decision was all about. After that, Jack got his fair ration of cheers.

Some of the players found it eerie, without the cacophony of sound one gets at an English ground. "Like





The party, with Mick Martin, Brendon Batson, Cyrille Regis (forefront) go sight-seeing.

scored at least half a dozen goals himself. I lost count of the Brown headers which just skimmed outside crossbar or post.

The Chinese were brought face to face with reality in their second match when they assembled their national side to play West Brom. Once again, the Peking stadium was packed. In fact, for the first time ever, I was told Chinese fans queued all night to get tickets, priced at 3p, 6p and 9p.

West Brom quickly got a grip on the midfield, where Robson was a real powerhouse. By half-time it was clear West Brom had the match won, simply because of their professional approach, dominating the midfield, and letting Cunningham, Regis and Brown run free up-front.

The party moved on to Shanghai where tiredness caught up with them, on a hot and humid day, and although West Brom won 2-0 it was their worst display of the tour.

### Eased off

Back in Canton they found a pitch more to their liking. Wet on top, very badly pock marked with holes and ruts, but it was clear the lads liked this reminder of an English pitch in mid-winter. They were five-up by half-time, and then eased off to make it 6-0 by the end.

These are the bare details of the programme, but it was also their off the field activities which made the West Brom players so popular. They visited the Great Wall of China, the

son can still show his touches at soccer.

He told me before the big match: "I have always admired the Hungarian side of Puskas, Kocsis, Hidegkuti. I think they were the best team I ever saw play, and I would like China to play like them."

In fact, there were some signs of the old Hungarian style in the China team, with short bursts of accurate passing and then a long ball to try and find one of their flying wingers. Problem was, they had no man like Bozsik or Hidegkuti to control the game in midfield.

Mr. Nien Wei Shi told me later: "West Brom have done us a favour. They showed us the need to be faster and more determined in winning possession. They also showed us keeping possession is not everything, if your players cannot pull opponents out of position and create openings. We hope to have more European sides coming to China, to help us raise our standards."

Ron Atkinson echoed those observations: "I think my boys have grown up on this tour. The Chinese players have a lot of basic talent. They control the ball very well, and some of their passing is first class. They lost possession of the ball too easily because they don't know how to tackle and challenge for the ball with the full weight of the body."

Skipper John Wile, whose control of the players on the field played such a big part in the team's success, told

## CHINESE CONNECTION

playing in a cathedral," said one. Yet, the West Brom players reacted to this sporting behaviour of the fans.

They played it cool, and even resorted to the old-fashioned English way of shaking hands when a goal was scored, instead of the hysterical hugging, kissing and fist-waving we get so often these days. Maybe I'm an old fuddy-duddy . . . but I liked seeing the handshake. Underplaying the scoring of a goal can often be more effective than the gloating and provocation which has crept in to the modern game.

That first game, won 3-1 by West Brom, set the pattern.

The style in all four matches never varied. The back-four sat back and shut out all attacks. Then the middle three — usually Mick Martin, Tony Brown, and Bryan Robson — took a grip on the game, and controlled the running of the match. They darted quickly into the tackle; almost invariably won possession; and then set up a sharp counter-attack.

The Chinese fans were captivated by the form of the coloured players, Brendon Batson, Cyrille Regis and Laurie Cunningham. There were squeals of delight when Cunningham used his pace to go racing down the wing. At first, he was inclined to drift inside, but later took the advice of his manager Ron Atkinson and went the classic route, outside the full-back, to the by-line, and clipped over his centres where Regis and Brown caused havoc.

Regis was perhaps the biggest favourite of all, because of his strength, and those astonishing runs

West Brom defence thwart an attack from the Chinese.



at defenders, which make him such a crowd-pleaser. He still has a lot to learn about the basics of the game, but a man with his speed, strength in the air, and ability to turn a match by one devastating run, is bound to have the fans cheering him.

The flamboyance of Regis and Cunningham made them easily recognisable, but the brave and unselfish runs of Alistair Brown played a big part in West Brom's success.

The Chinese, for all their latent ball skills, their ability to trap and control a ball, and their speed, were caught out repeatedly because they tend to be ball-watchers. Time and time again, they failed to pick up the big man Brown, who not only made room for Regis and Cunningham, but was also desperately unlucky not to have

Ming Tombs, Chairman Mao's tomb, a tea plantation where they played with the kids in the school, and also found time to visit a silk factory. Tony Brown, Jack Taylor, John Trewick, and John Wile won fans galore when they visited The Children's Palace where several hundred Chinese children get tuition in all kinds of activities: gymnastics, table tennis, soccer, music. And all of the children gathered round the team clapping for minutes on end.

I had a long talk with the Chinese national coach, Mr. Nien Wei Shi, both before the match with the national team, and at the end of the tour. He is a happy smiling man, a former centre-forward built like a tank, and judging by the way he played head tennis with Ron Atkin-

son: "I think the lads did magnificently. To play in hot humid conditions, against players who were fast and skilful was a test of character. I think this tour has helped to build up the team spirit, and I think it will help us in Europe next season. The young lads particularly like defender Derek Statham will have learned a lot, about playing football in strange conditions, eating different kinds of food, and still retaining their professionalism."

The lads needed that professionalism and British phlegm on the journey home. They were on the plane for 24 hours, and despite stops at Bangkok, Delhi, Dubai and Rome, were not allowed to leave the aircraft. That was a real test of their stamina after such an energy-sapping tour.



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# THE FOUR~LETTER WORD THAT MANY PLAYERS DREAD...

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And it is almost certainly final proof legs that once scythed through packed penalty-areas or shored-up defences have lost their spring and stamina.

One moment the player is fending off worshippers clutching autograph books outside the foyer to the club; the next he is listed — unwanted!

Most players say the final face-to-face with the manager is the most shattering experience of their soccer lives.

The Football League's scroll of casualties this summer includes Billy Bremner, who helped run Scotland and Leeds United's midfields in the number four shirt for more than a decade, before finishing his playing career at Hull City.

Three former England internationals were also given 'frees' by their clubs.

Peter Thompson left Bolton 18 years after making his debut for Preston in the unenviable role of following the legendary Tom Finney.

## Challenge

The Carlisle-born Thompson, who is 36 in November, was not overawed by the challenge and went on to play 122 games for the Deepdale club before Bill Shankly snapped him up for £40,000 in 1963 for the first of his 317 games for Liverpool.

Shankly once said of Thompson: "His legs are so thin he tossed up with a sparrow — and lost!"

But the spindly winger, whose dribbling could shred defences on either flank, went on to play 16 times for England between 1964-70, win two League Championship medals with Liverpool, an F.A. Cup winner's medal and a Cup-Winners' Cup Final loser's medal in 1966.

And with Thompson went his former England and Liverpool team-mate Chris Lawler, capped four times for England by Sir Alf Ramsey, who was given a free transfer by Stockport County, and Keith Newton, veteran defender of almost 600 games for Blackburn, Everton and Burnley.

Newton, who won the first of his 27 caps in 1966 and the last in England's defence at the 1970 Mexico World Cup, had the misfortune to be told earlier in his career he was not wanted.

It came at the end of the 1971-72 season when he joined Burnley on a 'free' after only 50 games with Everton.

He had been rejected at the age of 28 with praise for superb displays for England in the 1970 World Cup still ringing in his ears.

"It came at the end of the season," explains Newton. "Harry Catterick (then Everton manager), rang me up. He hadn't played me regularly and asked me what he was going to do with me. I told him that was his problem."

"A couple of days later I received this letter informing me of my free

transfer."

But there was a silver lining to that experience. Newton played superbly for Burnley to help them win the Second Division Championship in 1972-73.

Perhaps the most colourful character to bow out of the big-time this summer was West Bromwich Albion's goalkeeper John Osborne.

He left The Hawthorns 11 years after joining the Midland club from Chesterfield. He went on to gain an F.A. Cup Final winner's medal for Albion against Everton in 1968.

John became the hero of that campaign when he was recalled for the Fourth Round clash with Southampton.

He was fully conscious for only the first ten of his 45 minutes on the pitch. He was severely concussed and injured his jaw in a

collision with Frank Saul. But insisted on carrying on.

The trainer took four minutes to revive him, then spent the next 35 yelling orders. Osborne, scarcely aware of what he was doing, held off repeated challenges from eager Southampton forwards before having to quit at half-time.

Alan Woollett, a member of Leicester's 1969 F.A. Cup Final side, left Filbert Street after more than 200 games. He once became the victim of what former Leicester manager Frank O'Farrell called the "vicious element in the Filbert Street crowd."

O'Farrell was referring to an army of barracking fans, who chose Woollett for particularly nasty abuse.

Two of Britain's most successful strikers in the past 15 years, former Welsh international Wyn Davies (Crewe Alexandra) and ex-Scotland scorer Hugh Curran (Oxford United) were also given free transfers by their respective clubs.

The 6ft. 11in., 12½ stone Davies, born in Caernarvon, played more than 500 games for Wrexham, Bolton, Newcastle, Manchester City, Manchester United, Blackpool, Stockport and Crewe.

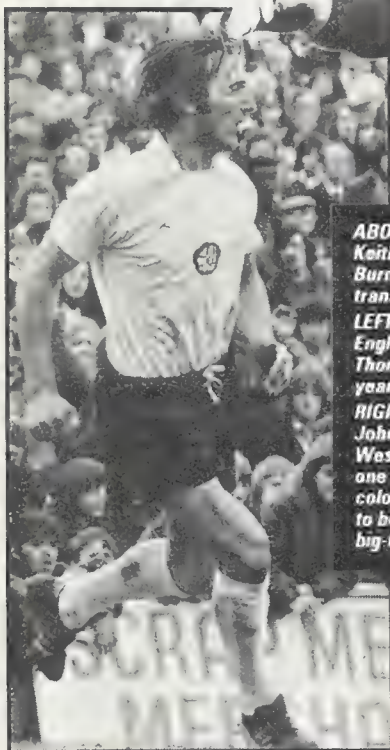
He also found time to squeeze a short-term loan period with Crystal Palace and gain 34 Welsh caps in a ten year international career which ended against Poland in 1974.

## Menace

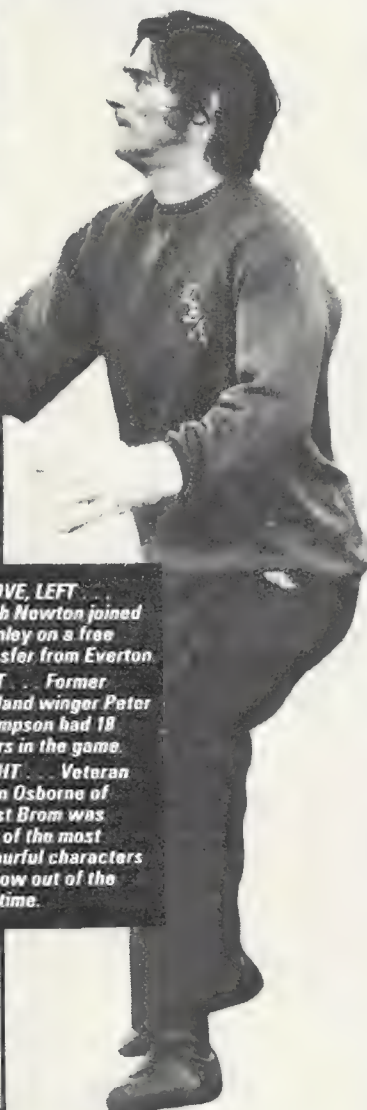
Hugh Curran, capped five times by Scotland, could also be a menace to defences. Millwall gave him the chance of League football and he scored 27 goals in 57 League appearances for the Londoners before joining Norwich.

Manager Bill McGarry wrote a cheque for £60,000 to take him to Wolves in February, 1969 — and there was a stay at Bolton between two spells at Oxford.

Other long-serving players who departed their clubs on free transfers at the end of 1977-78 included: Tommy Jackson (Manchester United), Mel Blyth (Southampton), Gordon Taylor (Blackburn), Martin Hinshelwood (Crystal Palace) and Newcastle's Irish internationals, David Craig and Ian McFaul. Plus David Payne (Orient), Alan Bloor (Stoke), Barry Lloyd (Brentford), Alan Suddick (Bury), Frank Clarke (Carlisle), Len Badger (Chesterfield), Alan Foggan (Southend), Alf Wood (Walsall), Dennis Bond and Tom Walley (Watford), Derek Jefferson (Hereford), Arnold Sidebottom (Huddersfield), Ray Hiron (Reading) and Eric McMordie (Hartlepool United).



ABOVE, LEFT... Keith Newton joined Burnley on a free transfer from Everton.  
LEFT... Former England winger Peter Thompson had 18 years in the game.  
RIGHT... Veteran John Osborne of West Brom was one of the most colourful characters to bow out of the big-time.





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# FOCUS ON

## Roy Greaves BOLTON

**FULL NAME:** Roy Greaves  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Farnworth  
**BIRTHDATE:** 4th April, 1947  
**HEIGHT:** 5ft 10ins  
**WEIGHT:** 12st  
**PREVIOUS CLUBS:** None  
**MARRIED:** Yes  
**CHILDREN:** One, Elizabeth  
**CAR:** Granada  
**FAVOURITE PLAYER:** John Spencer the snooker player  
**FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM:** Liverpool  
**MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:** Barbara Greaves  
**MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:** v. Everton in the Semi-Final of the League Cup, 1976-77  
**BIGGEST THRILL:** Playing for Bolton  
**BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:** Missing out on promotion in seasons 1975-76 and 1976-77  
**BEST COUNTRY VISITED:** Portugal  
**FAVOURITE FOOD:** Norman's sandwiches  
**MISCELLANEOUS LIKES:** Jimmy Hill  
**MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES:** George Higson  
**FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS:** It's a Knockout  
**FAVOURITE SINGERS:** Des O'Connor and Vera Lynn  
**FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS:** Albert Tatlock and Annie Walker from Coronation Street  
**BEST FRIEND:** George Mulhall, assistant-manager at Bolton  
**BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:** As above  
**BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER:** George Mulhall again  
**INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:** None  
**PERSONAL AMBITION:** To get my team-mate Peter Reid down to 12st  
**PROFESSIONAL AMBITION:** I achieved it when Bolton were promoted last season  
**IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE?**  
 Don't know  
**WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?**  
 Joyce McKinney

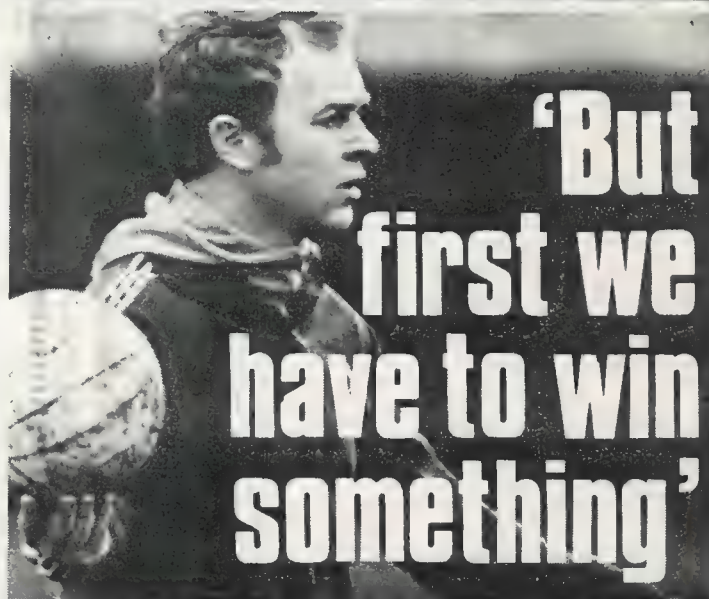
*Roy Greaves.*



**SHOOT!**



## Wrexham player-manager Arfon Griffiths has big plans for the Welsh club...



**W**ELSH international Arfon Griffiths makes no secret of the pleasure he derives from picking the brains of others in shaping Wrexham's future.

The club's 36-year-old player-manager openly admits to having become rather partial to this mild form of industrial espionage in a soccer career covering almost 20 years.

"There's no disgrace in listening to others, especially if they happen to be experts in their field," explained Griffiths.

One of the men Griffiths most admires is Bill Shankly, which probably explains why the Liverpool 'Messiah' is seen so often at the Racecourse Ground, Wrexham.

"Bill is always welcome at our club. He has a pre-match meal with us sometimes, and is marvellous with the lads. Everything he says is based on vast experience and makes good sense.

"He'll telephone me out of the blue with advice. It takes a special kind of man to do that."

Bertie Mee, who guided Arsenal to the "double" and is now assistant-manager at Watford, was a major influence on the Wrexham manager in his formative years on the staff at Arsenal.

"Bertie was trainer at Arsenal when I was there at the start of the Sixties. A difficult man to please but when he occasionally said 'well done', you felt on top of the world.

"I stayed at Arsenal for only about 18 months but I was never short of advice from such experienced professionals as George Eastham, Jack Kelsey and Geoff Strong. I could listen to them for hours."

But the man with the most influence on Griffiths has been John Neal, manager of Middlesbrough, whose perception as boss at Wrexham was primarily responsible for the Welsh club's rampant success in recent years.

"I'm receiving plenty of credit for things which John instigated when he was here," Griffiths points out.

"Our success hasn't come overnight, a gradual development over four or five years."

Griffiths gives his former boss most of the kudos for Wrexham's youth policy, which feeds a steady trickle of talent into the club.

Griffiths dips into the coffers to buy players only rarely and he spends cautiously but wisely.

His three big captures, Dixie McNeil for £60,000 from Hereford and Dai Davies for £10,000 from Everton last September, and Les Cartwright £30,000 from Coventry in June last year, were crucial components in the Wrexham machine last season.

"Dixie got most of the credit because he scored goals regularly but Cartwright did a lot in mid-field, and Dai worked wonders at the back.

"Dai organises the defence in much the same way as Peter Shilton does for Nottingham Forest."

Wrexham's surge from comparative obscurity to limelight can be plotted back to the 1975-76 season, claims Griffiths.

"Reaching the Quarter-Finals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup before going out to Anderlecht was perhaps the most important event in our history.

"Since then we've played with confidence, knowing the club is developing on the right lines."

Griffiths is almost as ambitious as he is modest in declining to accept the plaudits for the club's progress.

He has bold plans to extend Wrexham's scouting system, which at the moment is confined to the North Wales and Liverpool areas. He hopes to put men into the field to comb the whole of Britain.

But his ultimate ambition is to lead the club from the Third to the First Division in successive seasons.

He claims Wrexham, in the long term, could be as fine an advert for football as Ipswich.

"Bobby Robson has built the East Anglian club from limited resources and so can we. But first we have to win something . . ."





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- 1971 F.A. CUP FINAL  
Arsenal v. Liverpool
- 1971 EURO CUP WINNERS  
Chelsea v. R. Madrid
- 1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL  
Spurs v. Aston Villa
- 1970 F.A. CUP FINAL  
Chelsea's Cup
- 1966/70 WORLD CUP  
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1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0..... 100ft  
\*1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0..... 100ft  
\*1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1..... 200ft  
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2..... 100ft  
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1..... 100ft  
1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0..... 100ft  
1968 WBA 1, Everton 0..... 200ft  
1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1..... 200ft  
1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed. 2..... 300ft  
1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1..... 200ft  
1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2..... 200ft  
1963 Man. Utd 3, Leicester 1..... 200ft  
1962 Spurs 3, Burnley 1..... 100ft  
1960 Wolves 3, Blackburn 0..... 100ft  
1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1..... 100ft  
1958 Bolton 2, Man. Utd. 0..... 100ft  
1957 Aston Villa 2, Man. Utd. 1..... 100ft  
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\*1974 W. Germany 2, Holland 1..... 200ft  
\*1974 W. Germany 4, Sweden 2..... 200ft

\*1974 Holland 2, Brazil 0..... 200ft  
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\*1974 Sweden 2, Yugoslavia 1..... 200ft  
Above films also available in 400ft b/w and colour silent; 400ft b/w and colour sound.  
\*1970 Brazil 4, Italy 1..... 200ft  
\*1970 Italy 4, W. Germany 3..... 200ft  
\*1970 England 2, W. Germany 3..... 200ft  
\*1966 England 4, W. Germany 2..... 200ft & 400ft  
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\*1975 B. Munich 2, Leeds 0..... 150ft  
1972 Ajax 2, Inter Milan 0..... 200ft  
1971 Ajax 2, Panathinaikos 0..... 100ft  
1969 Milan 4, Ajax 1..... 200ft  
1968 Man. Utd. 4, Benfica 1..... 200ft/400ft  
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1968 Man. Utd. 3, Madrid 3 (semi-final)..... 200ft  
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1966 Man. Utd. 5, Benfica 1..... 200ft  
1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1..... 200ft  
1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3..... 200ft/400ft

### EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS

1963 Spurs 5, At. Madrid 1..... 200ft  
1965 West Ham 2, TSV Munich 0..... 200ft

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\*1977 Aston V. 3, Everton 2..... 200ft  
Also col SOUND £17.20  
\*1976 Man. City 2, Newcastle 1..... 200ft  
\*1975 Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0..... 100ft  
\*1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1..... 100ft  
1973 Spurs 1, Norwich 0..... 100ft  
1972 Stoke 2, Chelsea 1..... 200ft  
1971 Spurs 2, Aston V. 0..... 50ft  
1967 Q.P.R. 3, W.B.A. 2..... 200ft

### EURO NATIONS CUP

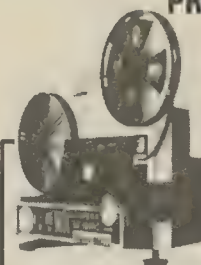
\*1976 Czech 7, W. Germany 5..... 400ft  
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1968 Newcastle 3, Man. City 4..... 200ft

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\*1977 England 0, Holland 2..... 200ft/400ft  
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1976 Scotland 2, England 1..... 200ft/400ft  
also 400ft b/w SOUND  
1975 England 5, Scotland 1..... 200ft  
also 400ft b/w SOUND  
1975 Five-goal Super Mac..... 200ft  
also 400ft b/w SOUND  
1969 England 4, Scotland 1..... 200ft  
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\*1972 Celtic 6, Hibs 1..... 100ft

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# Tartan Talk

## DANNY MCGRAIN

**W**HY, OH WHY, did Scotland enter the World Cup Finals like lambs and exit like lions? Why did Peru lead us to the slaughter and Iran get a look-in before the Lion Rampant roared and Holland were played off the park?

Well, I don't suppose anyone will ever know the complete answer to the biggest Jekyll and Hyde act since the first World Cup ball was kicked.

But you can rest assured that had Scotland found the form against Peru and Iran — or even just the latter — that they did against the Dutch, then the All-European Group A would have been shaking in their boots.

Let's start with the happy memories. Scotland were magnificent against the world's number two soccer nation of 1974.

The pride and the passion came flooding back as the boys nearly dreamed their impossible dream and brought themselves back from the dead. When it was 3-1 and Scotland were chasing that one goal which would have taken them into the last eight, I thought: "Glory be, they're going to do it!"

### Dazzling

But then Johnny Rep hit a fantastic goal which was so dazzling it matched the earlier magic of Archie Gemmill.

What a goal Archie scored! As if it wasn't enough to tease, torment and take on the defence of the World Cup runners-up single-handed, the wee man remained ice-cool to tuck home one of the most difficult angled shots I have seen.

I'll wager nine players out of ten would have cut one back, but educated Archie was just that little bit special. It was a glorious goal and just about won Archie my man of the match vote.

But it will give you a measure of how highly I rated Martin Buchan when I say that the Manchester United man was of even greater value to Scotland.

And Martin, too, looked our best bet in the nightmare against Iran.



Scotland team line-up before their World Cup tie against Peru.

# 'I FELT ANGRY...'



That really was a disaster. Let me make it clear now I don't believe even the magical display against Holland was consolation enough for the flops against Peru and Iran.

But Martin was the kingpin of our team even in the darkest hour and while he was on the park, Iran were never going to score. It was only that tragic clash with Willie Donachie which gave Iran the break they needed.

Scotland — my team-mates — did themselves no favours at all in these games. We all know it went so wrong. It was almost unbelievable so many players hit sticky patches at the same time.

But take it from me, they didn't need anyone to tell them they had let five million people down. And they certainly didn't need the nonsense that was written and spoken about them at every turn.

It's not my job to criticise the manager and I certainly make it my policy never to criticise individual players, but everyone knows some-

thing, somewhere, went very wrong.

Against Iran, Scotland could have had a new theme song for Ally and the lads . . . Me and my Shadows. Shadows of the side who thrashed European Champions Czechoslovakia at Hampden. Shadow of the side who steamrollered Wales at Anfield on the crest of a tartan wave.

And shadows of the side who rated only 8-1 to lift the World Cup on arrival in Argentina while the fabulous Italians themselves were 14-1.

We badly under-rated Peru and in particular the amazing Cubillas, although they were so talented that in retrospect perhaps we all got just a bit too upset over that 3-1 defeat. Against Iran there could be no excuses. Really, if we couldn't beat the pupils of the game, we didn't deserve to win the World Cup.

Alan Rough and Martin Buchan apart, there wasn't one player who played to form. I said in my World

Cup preview in SHOOT that my buddy Kenny Dalglish would prove he is the best player in the world.

Well, he hardly came near to that, and was substituted as he broke Denis Law's record number of caps.

He came nearer it against the Dutch, taking his goal quite superbly and being a bit unlucky to have one chalked-off.

Against Holland, not surprisingly, the emotions were completely different. But it wasn't all delight and joy. There was more to it than sheer euphoria. Along with the rest of the Scots fans watching at home, and in Mendoza itself, I felt anger. Anger we couldn't have done it earlier. And frustration we were out of the World Cup on goal difference once again.

I know it's a crazy thought and indeed almost irrelevant, but in six games in the last two Finals, we've lost only once.

The great unpredictables, that's Scotland. One sportswriter called us the Partick Thistle of international football. I guess that just about sums us up . . .

See you in two weeks when I'll give you my verdict on the rest of the World Cup drama.

**NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN TALK BY RANGERS' MANAGER JOHN GREIG**

*Danny McGrain*

# NOBBY

LION KILLER! WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU USE THAT FOR?



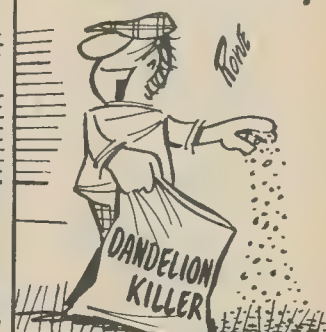
KEEPS LIONS OFF THE PITCH, DOESN'T IT?



BUT WE NEVER SEE ANY LIONS AROUND HERE



SHOWS HOW GOOD IT IS THEN DOESN'T IT?





# BORO'S JIM STEWART- THE 'KEEPER WHO MUSTN'T PUT A FOOT WRONG

AFTER his omission from Scotland's final World Cup squad Jim Stewart, Kilmarnock's international goalkeeper, resigned himself to a summer's work as a part-time fitter. But his plans were interrupted by the long memory of an English club manager.

Three years ago, while managing Wrexham, John Neal was recommended to watch Stewart. He liked what he saw but was not then in a position to bid for him.

When he moved to Middlesbrough, Neal did not forget Stewart and mentally pencilled in his name, among others, against the day he might need another goalkeeper. That moment arrived when Jim Platt, Boro's Northern Ireland cap, asked for a transfer.

"I felt Jim Stewart was the best goalkeeper in Scotland at the time the final 22 were selected for the World Cup," says Neal. "That is why I am sure I did the right thing in going for him instead of Alan Rough, though I mean no disrespect to Rough. In fact, they are two of a kind and I rate them highly. It's just I believe Jim has the edge. Certainly I think we have got ourselves a real bargain for £110,000."

Stewart joins a growing list of Scottish-born goalkeepers in the English First Division, among them Jim Blyth, George Wood, David Harvey, David Stewart and John Shaw.

## Capabilities

The fact four of these players were seriously considered by Ally MacLeod, Scotland's team manager, as capable of taking on such world renowned names as Rivelino, Bettega, Bonhof and Rensenbrink, underlines the capabilities of these Anglo-Scots.

Yet though Jim Stewart becomes only the second Middlesbrough player to be signed for a six-figure fee (Billy Ashcroft, at £120,000, from Wrexham in August, 1977, was the first) his first team place is far from guaranteed.

"Jim will have to work hard to keep his place here," insists Neal, "because although I have granted Jim Platt's request for a transfer, he will still face stiff competition from young David Brown, who did exceptionally well at the end of last season.

"As soon as Jim Stewart puts a foot wrong, David will be snapping



at his heels, and this is exactly how I like things to be. As far as I am concerned, the stronger the competition, the better. That way, you will always have players doing their best in order to keep their place."

The first time Stewart will be in action in Middlesbrough's goal will be back in Scotland, playing in pre-season "friendlies" against Hearts and Aberdeen.

"I am confident Stewart will improve the standard of goalkeeping at Ayresome Park, which is why I am prepared to risk letting go such a talented player as Jim Platt who has been a fine servant to the club and who is still an excellent 'keeper," says Neal.

Clearly, an exciting future is now open to Stewart who won his only cap to date as a substitute for Rough when Scotland beat Chile 4-2 in Santiago in June last year.

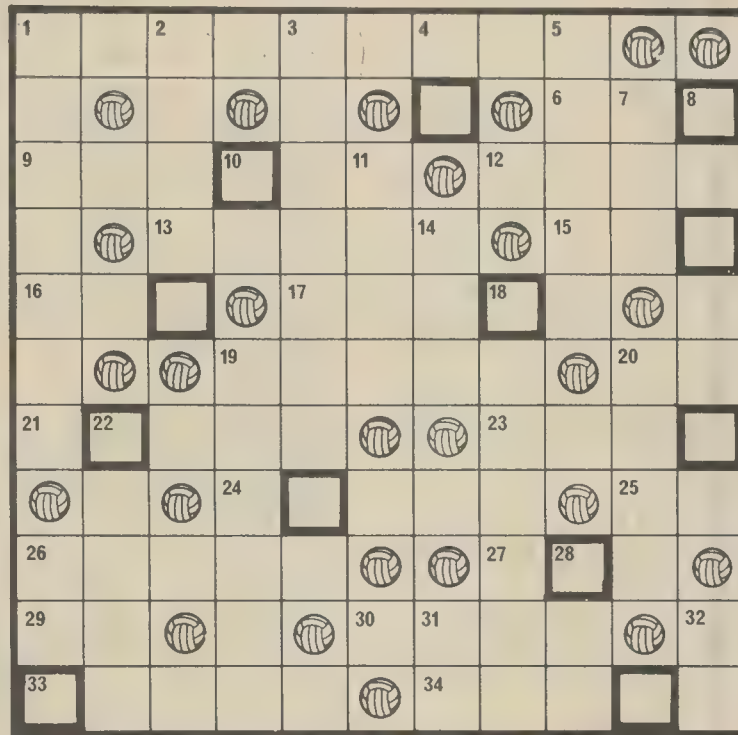
But, as Neal stresses, more international honours could come his way if he does well in the English First Division.

"After all, he will now be under the public spotlight after playing in the comparative obscurity of the Scottish First Division. It's a great chance for him to make a real name for himself both for Boro and for Scotland."

If Stewart succeeds, he will not need reminding he will owe a lot to the Man Who Never Forgot...

# Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Nottingham Forest striker. Answers on page 42.



## ACROSS:—

- (1) Frank —, Arsenal striker.
- (6) ---well; Barnsley's ground.
- (9) Joints of the arms.
- (12) Fit and talented.
- (13) Goes out.
- (15) — Cantello of West Bromwich Albion.
- (16) Roger H--sbur-, Norwich City 'keeper.
- (17) R--r-at-o- Ground (Chesterfield). The omissions in reverse.
- (19) Concur... with the ref's decision, for instance.
- (20) Ian -allac- of Coventry City.
- (21) Turn sharply — perhaps to score.
- (23) F--thams Grou-- (Darlington). Require from the omissions.
- (24) One is gained with a draw.
- (25) Ian -ow-er of Nottingham Forest.
- (26) -----moor; Torquay United's ground.
- (27) Take three letters from Brentford to give "deprive of".
- (29) Stuart Pe-r-on of Manchester United.
- (30) John —, a Bristol City 'keeper.
- (33) Number of goals scored in the 1976/77 F.A. Cup Final (Manchester United v. Liverpool).
- (34) Appoint by process of voting.

## DOWN:—

- (1) David —, a Leeds United goalkeeper.
- (2) — Stadium of Cambridge United.
- (3) Ray —, Chelsea attacker.
- (4) John Ri-s-n of Bolton Wanderers.
- (5) Peter —, Burnley player.
- (7) Tony G--- of Fulham.
- (8) Alan —, Newcastle United defender.
- (10) --ford United from Manor Road ground.
- (11) P--e--field Stadium (Gillingham). Agitate from the missing letters.
- (14) Take three letters from Chelsea to give "perceive".
- (18) — Park; home of Cowdenbeath.
- (19) Feel earnest desire or ambition. Aim for the top.
- (20) David —, Leicester City defender.
- (22) Mike —, Bolton full-back.
- (26) — Jennings, Arsenal 'keeper.
- (28) Ernie H--- of Q.P.R.
- (31) Bog--ad Park; ground of Dumbarton.
- (32) W-gan A-hletic were recently voted into the Football League.



# NEW BOSSES FOR

**S**COTTISH soccer has never in its long history had such a remarkable and spectacular week. Amazingly, it had nothing to do with the World Cup or Ally MacLeod!

It started on a Tuesday, May 24, when Jock Wallace resigned as manager of Grand Slam Champions Rangers. It was a startling decision and, only a day later while the guessing game of name-the-successor was going on, the Ibrox club did just that and gave the job to skipper John Greig.

While everyone was wanting to know what sort of manager the resolute and determined Greig would be, news leaked out from Parkhead that Celtic had made a bid to have former skipper Billy McNeill, boss of Aberdeen, as their man to take over from Jock Stein.

It made engrossing reading, it promoted wild speculation and the moves were either welcomed or worried over. This week SHOOT looks at the situation and tries to provide some of the answers to the questions the fans are asking.

Why did Jock Wallace resign? Why did Rangers not go for an experienced manager? Did Celtic wait and follow their old rivals' example and go for a younger man? And what does the future hold for Jock Stein, a man respected throughout the soccer world?

The forthcoming season will provide a firing squad with their sights firmly set on the twin giants of Scottish football — Rangers and Celtic.

## Heavy Burden

John Greig and Billy McNeill are in the hottest seats in the game and they know it only too well. They are both young men almost certainly assured of a bright future in management, but never before in their careers will they carry such a heavy and responsible burden.

Greig, 35, didn't hesitate when he was asked to take over from the departing Wallace. He is steeped in Rangers' tradition and it is extremely difficult to envisage him with any side.

McNeill, 37, was taken by surprise when the news came through his former club wanted him back to guide them. Celtic had just completed an abysmal season, an embarrassing term that saw them stutter and falter at so many hurdles. He asked for time to think over the offer, but there was never any real doubt he would return to his beloved Celtic.

These men, then, are the New Firm . . . the new men behind the Old Firm. But let's start at the beginning of that astonishing week that will hold a very special place in Scottish soccer history.

Jock Wallace had just taken Rangers to the treble of the Premier Division Championship, the Scottish Cup and the League Cup. It had been a rewarding season and everything looked set for another happy chapter in Rangers' history.

Wallace had achieved something none of his predecessors had ever



Above . . . Jock Wallace twice achieved the Scottish domestic treble.  
Left . . . John Greig is chaired by team-mates after Rangers had clinched the Premier Division Championship last season.

managed . . . he was the first Ibrox boss to take the team to two Grand Slams. Bill Struth, Scott Symon, Davie White and Willie Waddell, the other Rangers' managers, had never done that.

However, things weren't quite going so smoothly behind the scenes at Ibrox. There were rumours of rows between Wallace and vice-chairman Willie Waddell. Neither Wallace nor Waddell will comment, but it seems fairly accurate to say they did not see eye to eye.

When Rangers failed to win anything two seasons ago Wallace was a target for the boo boys. It seemed whenever things were going bad he would get abuse . . . but when things were going well there was always someone else ready to step in and take the credit.

It was in this atmosphere Wallace walked into the Ibrox boardroom on that Tuesday night to meet the directors. People have said Wallace merely wanted more

cash from the club, but it could be there were other factors to be taken into consideration before his departure from the club he had served so well.

There is now little secret about the fact Wallace had been contacted by Leicester City, the club he now manages, of course, FIVE days before that meeting.

The announcement that night, around 9pm, Wallace had quit hit the front pages of the daily Press and had everyone wondering why it had happened and who would take over.

Wallace played it very cool and just wished the club every success in the new season. Leicester then came out of the shadows to admit an interest in Wallace and by the end of the week he had a three-year contract with the Filbert Street club on a reputed salary of £25,000 a year.

Ally MacLeod, who had earlier been mentioned as a possible for Leicester, was immediately linked with Rangers, as was former Ibrox striker Alex Ferguson, who was doing such an admirable job guid-



Derek Johnstone . . . a transfer request.

ing St. Mirren, but these rumours were unfounded.

Rangers had to look no farther than their loyal and great servant John Greig. He had been the leader on the pitch for so many years. He had been the motivator of rescue bids. He had been the mainstay even in the lean years. And, more importantly, he was a Rangers man, willing and able to give his very last for the club.

He was offered the job, he accepted, as expected, and he is now plotting his way through the course that brings booby traps and booby prizes. Greig realises it will be an entirely different way of life. He won't find it easy to drop someone who has been a personal friend as a player at Ibrox, but his determination to be a success and bring even more glory to Ibrox will ensure he will do what he considers to be the best for the club he has given his undivided attention and 18 years of laudable service.

Greig's first major problem will be settling the future of Derek



# THE 'OLD FIRM'

Johnstone. The World Cup player has asked for a transfer and if he does move will be difficult to replace. Johnstone netted 41 goals last season and Greig will be hoping to persuade him to stay at Ibrox.

Greig was just moving in behind the desk at Ibrox when the news came through Celtic had made a sensational bid to bring his old friend and foe Billy McNeill back to Parkhead as boss of the team that had not so much failed last season as flopped lamentably.

"I was looking forward to doing battle with Billy McNeill as a man-

the Old Firm fans for years to come.

It wasn't easy for McNeill to quit his £12,000-a-year job with Aberdeen. He had been in management only three short months with Second Division side Clyde. He was starting at the bottom until The Dons catapulted him into the big-time of the Premier Division. They wanted a replacement for Ally MacLeod and they saw McNeill as the ideal man.

It didn't take McNeill long to settle into the scheme of things at Pittodrie. He bought a seven roomed house overlooking



Billy McNeill, as the new manager of Celtic, will be making his own decisions.



ager, but I didn't dream it could be with him as manager of Celtic so soon," said Greig. "The prospect is exciting."

There is no doubt about that! Greig and McNeill are winners and respected figures. Their playing careers have drawn quite unique parallels.

Greig has captained Scotland and his club, as has McNeill. The former Celtic centre-half won nine League Championship medals while Greig picked up five.

McNeill earned six Scottish Cup winners' medals... the same as Greig and they both share the record along with former Ranger Bob McPhail. Incredibly, both McNeill and Greig played their last games for their clubs in Scottish Cup Finals!

McNeill quit four seasons ago after Celtic had defeated Airdrie 3-1 at Hampden... and Greig, who didn't know it then, was playing his last match for Rangers as they beat Aberdeen 2-1 to lift the silverware in May.

Six League Cup winners' medals came McNeill's way while Greig claimed four. McNeill captained Celtic to the European Cup in 1967. Greig led Rangers to the Cup-Winners' Cup five years later.

So, both men are used to success and the course that has set them up for a collision should provide some hectic entertainment for

Above... Jock Stein has made Celtic a team respected throughout soccer and is now on the club's board.

Below... McNeill, then skipper of Celtic, holds the European Cup after the club had become the first-ever British side to win the trophy.



Stonehaven Bay and he enjoyed life there with his family.

He took the club to within two points of the Championship in his first full season as a manager and he also took them to within 90 minutes of Scottish Cup glory. He had to be content with being a runner-up, but he was on the right lines. He hadn't lost his golden touch. Everyone realised that. Especially Celtic.

Celtic, as always, were scrupulously fair in their dealings with Aberdeen. They contacted chairman Chris Anderson and asked for permission to speak to McNeill. Obviously, he didn't want to lose his manager, but he didn't want to stand in his way.

McNeill was contacted, but, in trying to be equally fair to everyone, he asked for time to consider. The Dons were now in the not-so-happy position of preparing themselves for another search for a new manager. McNeill had been in charge for just over a year.

"I suppose we might even be flattered," said one Aberdeen official. "Scotland took one manager and Celtic took the other. We'll just have to look for another young man of quality."

Big Billy eventually decided he could not live without Celtic. Like Greig, he had been steeped in tradition. And, like Greig, he had always been tipped as a manager of his club in the future.

For both McNeill and Greig those appointments may have come quicker than they expected. But both men are knowledgeable on the ways of soccer at the very top.

They were cast in the same mould, and there aren't an awful lot of moulds like those going around today.

And what about Jock Stein, the man who took Celtic out of the doldrums and made them a team to be respected throughout soccer? Their dip in fortunes last season can be put down to many things: the transfer of Kenny Dalglish, the long term injuries of defensive stalwarts Danny McGrain and Pat Stanton, plus the inexplicable loss of form of some players of whom so much was expected.

Stein, at 54, still has an important part to play in soccer and no doubt a lot of English clubs will be watching the situation very closely. He is a dear friend of Manchester United supremo Matt Busby and, in fact he declined an offer to manage the Old Trafford club at one stage. He might also have been the Scottish International team boss today instead of Ally MacLeod, but again he decided to stay at Parkhead as a director.

He says: "I will not be sitting looking over Billy McNeill's shoulder. The decisions on the playing side will be his and his alone. If he wants some advice then I will give it to him."

McNeill takes over bringing his number two from Aberdeen, John Clark, who left Celtic only last season to go to Pittodrie! The McNeill-Clark partnership which proved a winner in the famous Celtic team of the Sixties and early Seventies could be equally successful on the managerial front.

Never before has Scottish football waited so anxiously for the start of a season. How will McNeill and Greig fare? Will a club outside the Old Firm take this opportunity to be crowned kings of Scotland for the first time since 1965 when Kilmarnock won the title?

The answers will come from McNeill, MBE, and Greig, MBE...



# TAKE A BREAK—IT'S QUIZ TIME

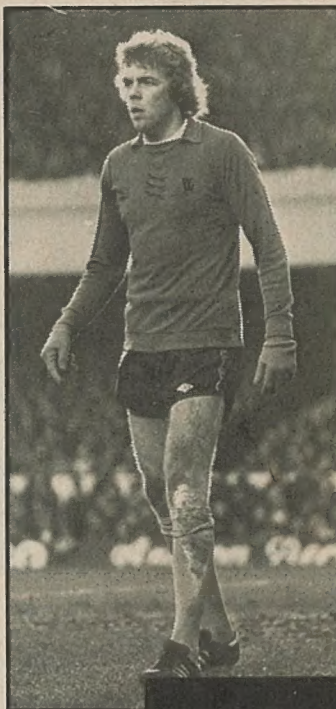
1. Which Scottish League clubs would you support if you followed the ones with these nicknames? (a) The Bairns, (b) The Pars, (c) The Warriors and (d) Red Lichties.

2. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of an English First Division manager . . . NLAA SIDKC (SILBOTR YITC).

3. Former Tottenham and England striker Martin Chivers recently returned from a spell in Switzerland with Servette and signed for which Football League club?

4. Portsmouth's Phil Roberts was another player on the move recently. He signed for Hull City, Hereford United or Huddersfield Town for an estimated fee of £5,000?

5. Do you know the Christian names of the following players?  
(a) - - - - Jackson (Orient), (b) - - - - Gates (Ipswich), and (c) - - - - Bradshaw (right, Wolves).



6. Which of these British players haven't represented their country at full level — Willie Pettigrew (Motherwell), Ted MacDougall (Southampton) or Alan Kennedy (Newcastle)?

7. Dave Watson rocked Manchester City recently when he asked for a transfer. Why?

8. John Newman, Dave Smith, Jack Charlton and Bobby Saxton are managers of Third Division clubs. Which of them is boss of (a) Southend United, (b) Exeter

City, (c) Grimsby Town and (d) Sheffield Wednesday?

9. Which two clubs contested the 1967-68 F.A. Cup Final?

10. Who guided Derby County to the Football League Championship in 1971-72?

## WORLD CUP

Answer the following questions about the early games in the Second Round.

11. Argentina v. Poland was a superb game. (a) The Argentinians won 2-0 . . . who scored their goals and (b) who missed a penalty for Poland?

12. After the first games, Holland were top scorers when they hammered Austria 4-1, 5-1 or 6-1?

13. Brazil, who struggled in the First Round, came good when they beat Peru 3-0. Dirceu (above) scored their first two goals but who grabbed the third from the penalty-spot?

14. True or false? Dino Zoff (Italy) and Sepp Maier (West Germany) skipped their countries in the opening Group A game.

15. West Germany met Holland in a repeat of the 1974 World Cup Final. (a) What was the half-time score and (b) the final result?

## ANSWERS:

1. (a) Rangers, (b) Celtic, (c) Hearts, (d) Aberdeen.  
2. TONY WOODCOCK.  
3. Ipswich.  
4. Hereford United.  
5. (a) Jackson, (b) Gates, (c) Bradshaw.  
6. Ted MacDougall.  
7. He was asked for a transfer.  
8. John Newman.  
9. Arsenal and Liverpool.  
10. Brian Clough.  
11. (a) Mario Kempes, (b) Andrzej Bialy.  
12. 6-1.  
13. Dirceu.  
14. True.  
15. (a) 1-0, (b) 2-1.

## GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS: (1) Stapleton, (6) Oak, (9) Elbows, (12) Able, (13) Exits, (15) Len, (16) Any, (17) Niece, (19) Agree, (20) We, (21) Twist, (23) Need, (24) Point, (25) By, (26) Plain, (27) Rob, (29) As, (30) Shaw, (33) Three, (34) Elect.  
DOWN: (1) Stewart, (2) Abbey, (3) Lewington, (4) To, (5) Noble, (7) Ale, (8) Kennedy, (10) Ox, (11) Stir, (14) See, (18) Central, (19) Aspire, (20) Webb, (22) Walsh, (26) Pat, (28) Owe, (31) He, (32) It.

Jumbled Name: TONY WOODCOCK.

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TORPEDO MOSCOW  
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## IN NEXT WEEK'S SHOOT

Colour: More World Cup action + Kenny Dalglish (Liverpool) + Stan Cummins (Middlesbrough) + Focus on Barry Daines (Spurs).

Features: We study the League Champions' goalscorers over the years and come up with some fascinating, provocative comparisons + Four managers — Jimmy Armfield (Leeds), Tony Book (Man. City), Gordon Milne (Coventry), and John Bond (Norwich) — reflect on last season and look to the future + Ipswich captain Mick Mills on the prospect of playing in the European Cup-Winners' Cup for the first time + The Goalscoring 'Double acts' of Brighton's Teddy Maybank and Peter Ward, Malcolm Macdonald and Frank Stapleton of Arsenal, Orient's Peter Kitchen and Joe Mayo and John Richards and Bill Rafferty of Wolves with comments from a representative in each pair + Former great Spurs' manager Bill Nicholson on the tremendous progress Graeme Souness has made since he was released by the White Hart Lane club + Interviews with Jock Wallace, new boss at Leicester City; Jim McDonagh (Bolton); Mark Aizlewood (Luton); Nick Deacy of PSV of Holland + A critical look at the high turnover amongst players in the Scottish international squad over recent years + Continuing our review of the season + All our regular items.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SOCCER DURING THE SUMMER — PLACE A REGULAR ORDER NOW FOR BRITAIN'S BIG-SELLING MAGAZINE



THE year between May, 1977, and May, 1978, was a see-saw one for Liverpool central-defender Phil Thompson, following a prolonged struggle to regain his first team place and shake-off a nagging knee injury which had threatened his career.

Forced to miss Liverpool's first winning European Cup Final in Rome over a year ago due to cartilage trouble, Thompson resumed only to damage another cartilage in the same knee in the first League match of last season.

"It was against Middlesbrough away," recalls Phil. "I had played in the Charity Shield game with Manchester United, only to get crocked again a week later at Ayresome Park.

"After my second operation, I became very despondent at times, wondering if I would ever make the grade again. I'd lost my place in the team and was turning out for the reserves — and it was there I received a lot of help.

"The lads in the reserve side, instead of treating me as a first teamer who was on the way out, gave me all the necessary encouragement. And it was a stage in my career when I badly needed a boost."

Alan Hansen, the man who had

taken over from Thompson in the Liverpool line-up, had shown good form, and as usual at Anfield, there was keen competition for first team places.

Phil says: "There is always somebody waiting to step in if anyone is injured or out of form. Our reserve side is packed with capable players, and our first team pool has the depth necessary for any successful club.

"For example, we had players of the calibre of Tommy Smith and David Johnson on crutches at this year's European Cup Final — but we were still able to field a winning team against Bruges.

"I was delighted to play against Bruges, and before that, get my chance again in the League side. In Rome last year I remember thinking I would never get the chance to play in another European Cup Final — Glasgow Celtic and Manchester United had both won the trophy, but their players didn't manage to win it again."

In his career so far, at club, Under-23 and England senior level, Thompson has regularly come up against top-class opposition and nominates the controversial Joe Jordan as a man he respects.

"I realise Joe is often criticised for his robust play and habit of upsetting defenders — but if he can dish out a knock or two, he can also accept them. I enjoy playing against him."

And as a native of Merseyside who joined Liverpool as an apprentice and signed professional in January, 1971, Phil gained particular pleasure from the fact that Liverpool topped Everton in the League last season.

"Once we knew Nottingham Forest had won the Championship, the race to finish in second place had developed into a personal duel between Everton and us. In a way, Merseyside had its own private League, and it was a matter of great prestige as to which of the two clubs would top the other.

"Looking back, I'm happy that after all the ups and downs of last season, I was in the side at the end of it, playing in my favourite position as a central-defender.

"And being captain of England's 'B' team was something that gave me a lot of pleasure earlier in my career — it was one of my biggest thrills."

# PHIL THOMPSON'S SEE-SAW SEASON



Liverpool players proudly parade the European Cup around Wembley after beating Bruges 1-0 in the Final last May.







**MIKE CHANNON**  
**Man. City**

**SHOOT!**